

Cuban envoys leave as Havana points finger at intelligence forces

CIA is linked to diplomatic shooting row

● Cuba has claimed the shooting incident in London which led to the expulsion of two diplomats was provoked by a member of the CIA

● Scotland Yard sources confirmed that an unidentified intelligence service was involved in the shooting incident. A man was interviewed but not detained

● As the diplomats flew home last night, the Foreign Office maintained that the only issue at stake was the conduct of the attaché who fired the shots

By Richard Ford, Stewart Tendler, Nicholas Beeston and Michael Evans

Two Cuban diplomats expelled from Britain after the shooting incident in west London, were at the centre of a bizarre story last night allegedly involving British intelligence and the CIA.

The Foreign Office insisted that the only issue at stake was the fact that the Cuban commercial attaché, Señor Carlos Medina Pérez, had fired a gun.

He and the Cuban Ambassador, Dr Oscar Fernández-Mell, flew off to Havana yesterday, after being given 24 hours to leave the country. The Foreign Office described

the shooting incident as "totally unacceptable behaviour and outrageous action" on the streets of London.

But the Cuban Government immediately countered with an angry claim that the shooting incident was sparked off by a CIA defector operating with the knowledge of British intelligence.

In a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Havana and distributed in

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London, Cuba broke its silence over the mysterious shooting in Sussex Gardens when its commercial attaché opened fire on a group of people.

The statement said that Señor Medina Pérez was leaving his luxury flat on Monday afternoon when he was approached by a former Cuban diplomat, Señor Florentino Azpillaga Lombard, who defected from the embassy in Prague to the US in June last year and joined the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Azpillaga was accompanied by three men and a woman," said the statement. "The traitor (Azpillaga) in a menacing way instructed Señor Medina Pérez to defect. In reply to this he took out the gun he was carrying, fired it, and the group ran away."

According to Scotland Yard sources an unidentified intelligence source or security service was involved in the Cuban shooting. The man who received slight injuries when a bullet grazed his hand during the shooting incident was interviewed by the police but was not detained.

A Yard spokesman said: "The injured man has been interviewed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad who are satisfied

that he was not posing a threat to anyone."

One source denied that British intelligence officers were involved, although if the commercial attaché was working for Cuban intelligence, it would be normal practice for him to be kept under surveillance either by Special Branch or by MI5.

Officially Scotland Yard refused to comment on any of the speculation or reports about the circumstances behind the shooting. A spokesman denied reports that the Yard had confirmed the injured man was a member of MI5. He also said the Yard did not accept any suggestion that the diplomat faced attack or kidnapping.

Last night the Yard would say officially only that officers from the anti-terrorist branch had interviewed the man and the case was closed. The branch which often works closely with Special Branch — part of the same Yard department — would have been called in because of the possibility in the early stages of some terrorist connection.

The Yard refused to explain how they had traced the injured man who apparently fled the scene after the shooting, raising the suspicion that the Cuban knew the man he shot and identified him to police.

The police refused to give even the briefest details of the victim. There was no explanation of where he received treatment for his injury nor how he left the scene.

The Foreign Office expelled Señor Medina Pérez and Dr Fernández-Mell over the incident, in a move designed to make an example of the shooting incident for other diplomatic missions in London.

Officials made clear that the swift and tough response by



Way out: Señor Carlos Medina Pérez, the expelled Cuban commercial attaché, being escorted from his embassy yesterday.

Soldier who shot IRA suspects feared bomb would be set off

From Tony Dawe, Gibraltar

The SAS soldier who fired the first shots during the killing of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar yesterday said yesterday that he was convinced they were about to detonate a remote control bomb which would kill innocent people.

The man, described only as Soldier A, told the Gibraltar inquest into the deaths that he thought the two he shot were "going for a button" which would set off a bomb in an area he knew was busy with civilians and off-duty sailors.

He had started to shout a warning, "but I honestly don't know if it came out."

Soldier A was one of three SAS men to give evidence yesterday. His tactical commander, known as Soldier E, said that the troops who fired at the three terrorists had shouted a warning first. The SAS team's bomb expert, Soldier G, explained why he believed that a car parked by the terrorists was a suspect car bomb.

The now familiar ritual of drawing heavy curtains across

the corner of the court was repeated shortly before 4pm yesterday as Soldier A made his way into the witness box. The curtains were then partially drawn so that only Mr Felix Pizzarello, the coroner, the jury and lawyers could see the witness.

In a north London accent he said that during a briefing in Gibraltar just before midnight

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on March 5, he had been reminded that the terrorists — Maïred Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage — were highly dangerous and very professional. He said he was also reminded that minimum force should be used in arresting them, unless life was endangered.

He said he was also told that the terrorists planned to detonate a car bomb in the area where the Royal Anglian regimental band would gather on Tuesday, March 8.

Soldier A said that on Sunday March 6 he was on watch in civilian clothes with

Soldier B and was aware of many sailors and civilians in the area. He heard over his radio that the three terrorists had been spotted heading towards the border after leaving their car in the expected spot. He said he first spotted them at a road junction.

"I saw that all three terrorists were together, talking and smiling," Soldier A told the inquest. "They were looking back up the road in the general direction of us. I decided I would then move down the right hand side of the road to effect the arrests as all three were together, and I knew that C and D were nearby."

"As I was moving up, Savage moved away and started walking south towards us. I wasn't expecting the split as he moved past. Soldier B was about to turn round to arrest Savage but I stopped him and said we should keep moving and arrest Farrell and McCann."

Soldier A said that Farrell and McCann then started moving off again towards the border and he was about 10

metres behind when McCann turned round. "He had a smile on his face and he looked over his shoulder and he looked right at me," Soldier A said.

"The smile went off his face. It is hard to describe how he looked. He had a look that he knew who I was, a look of alertness that I was a threat."

"At that stage I was going to shout a warning to stop. At the same time I was getting out my pistol. I went to shout stop. I don't know if it came out, I honestly don't know. He looked at me, his right elbow moved across the front of his body. At that stage I thought McCann was going to go for a button. For me the whole thing was the bomb in the hand area."

He added: "I fired at McCann, one round into his back from three metres. I caught out of the corner of my eye some form of movement by Farrell. She had a bag under her arm and she was going for it. I thought she was also going for a button so I also shot Farrell."

Britons escape in eye of hurricane Gilbert

By David Sapsted, London, and Alan Tomlinson, Miami

Hurricane Gilbert left more than a thousand British holidaymakers trapped on Jamaica last night with many others being airlifted from the Cayman Islands, where the storm was expected to hit next.

Many of the Britons on Jamaica were reported to have been evacuated from their beachside resorts to safer hotels inland just hours before 140mph winds struck the Caribbean island.

Torrential rains and huge waves whipped by the winds swamped beaches and flooded vast areas. The hurricane flattened crops, uprooted trees, washed away roads and ripped off roofs.

The Foreign Office said that no Britons were believed to have been injured in the hurricane — the Caribbean's worst for eight years — but a

Photograph.....24

spokesman added that communications, power and water supplies had all been badly hit.

Some reports suggested that seven Jamaicans had died but others said the eventual death toll could be as high as 30.

The east of the island bore the brunt of the storm's impact but the eye of the hurricane chose the worst possible path along the entire 135-mile length of Jamaica. Power cuts and damaged telephone lines virtually severed communications with the outside world, and hampered casualty estimates.

Kingston was badly hit. Planes at the international airport were tipped over and there were isolated reports of looting in the city centre as terrified residents headed for higher ground.

Up to 1,500 Britons were believed to have been on the island when the hurricane struck and both the Jamaica Tourist Board in London and the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) confirmed last night that many had been evacuated because of fears of tidal waves.

Continued on page 24, col 8



WIN £202,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● With two people sharing the £4,500 daily prize yesterday (see page 3), the Portfolio Accumulator remains unchanged at £202,000. Prices: page 31

Labour would 'split up' press groups

The shadow Home Secretary, Mr Roy Hattersley says a Labour Government would split up the ownership of newspapers and broadcasting stations.

He disclosed the radical proposals as the Labour Party is preparing a general media policy review which is to be completed next year.

Mr Hattersley is also "personally committed" to ending foreign ownership of newspapers and broadcasting companies. Full interview, page 19

Efficiency gap

British industry needs nearly 10 years of productivity growth at current rates to catch up with France and West Germany, a CBI survey says. Page 25

Degree courses

A list of degree courses vacancies remaining in law, business administration, architecture, creative arts, education, agriculture and mass communications is published today. Page 14

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Rejoicing hostage flies home

Damascus (AP) — Herr Rudolf Cordes, the West German hostage, said as he left Damascus for home on his first day of freedom yesterday that he felt "born again".

Tightly hugging his tearful wife, who had flown from Germany to be with him, he said: "I'm rejoicing for being a free man again. I feel I'm born again."

"I am feeling perfect, and I'm in a very good shape," he added. "There were moments during which I was feeling so terrible ... It was awful."

Turning to his wife and hugging her tighter, he said: "But now that I am a free man again, that I am joining my family, everything seems so far away."

Asked if he had seen any of the other 17 foreign hostages held in Lebanon, he said: "I haven't seen any hostages. I was alone."

Help pledged, page 8

Postmen begin to tackle backlog

By Roland Radd and Craig Seton

The Post Office yesterday reported that almost half of Britain's main sorting offices were working normally as thousands of postmen reported for work to deal with the huge backlog of mail.

Mr Alan Tiffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, said he was delighted that so many members had already returned to work, as local



Mr Tiffin: Delighted to see his men back at work.

officials negotiated the use of casual labour.

"All the signs show that as long as management do not provoke people we shall have everyone back to work by Thursday," he said.

National negotiations will start early next week on an alternative remuneration system to the extra pay supplements used to retain staff in the London and the South-east, which suffer from staff shortages.

In Liverpool, one of the first areas to walk out after the original 24-hour national stoppage, postmen will vote on whether to return to work at a mass meeting today and there will be a similar meeting in Birmingham.

The Manchester regional office country estimates it will

£199 return to US offered by airline

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Tens of thousands of passengers will be able to fly to the United States and back for £199, it emerged yesterday as the traditional airline battle for winter business got under way.

Pan Am, the troubled American carrier, announced it had applied for government permission to charge £199 for return flights to New York, Detroit, Washington and Miami for outbound travel between October 17 and December 7. The fare, which cuts £154 from the cheapest existing one, will be limited to 10,000 seats and is surrounded by many restrictions.

British Airways and TWA immediately matched the Pan Am move. BA is cutting the fares on all its 11 east coast destinations to £199 and on its seven to the west coast to £299. Like Pan Am, it insists that passengers stay for a minimum of seven days and a maximum of 21 in the US.

Pan Am insists that reservations, full payment and ticketing must be completed no later than 30 days before the departure date, and outbound travel is permitted only on Monday to Thursday, with return flights on Sunday to Wednesday.

The airline, which is confident of receiving government approval for offer, says it will "move low fares from the back-street bucket shops and into the hands of reputable high street travel agents."

Pan Am is also offering cut-price fares of £299 to Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles and will be continuing the battle throughout the winter with 12.6 per cent of its seats available at prices ranging from £299 to £399 return, with a £20 supplement for weekend travel.

The number of people travelling across the Atlantic always drops sharply in the winter

Trail of blood leads to rich haul of ancient gold

From Mohsin Ali Washington

By following a trail of blood and looted gold, a Peruvian archaeologist has uncovered the richest cache of pre-Columbian artefacts yet scientifically excavated in the Americas.

"Like many a drama, this one starts violently, with the death of a tomb-robbing in the first act," Señor Walter Alva, aged 37, the director of the Burning Archaeological Museum in Lambayeque, Peru, who supervised the excavation, writes in the October issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*. He says it is also "the greatest cache of pre-Columbian ceramics ever found."

The tomb, near the northern coastal village of Sipan, has yielded some of

the most finely crafted gold work found in the New World. Adjacent sites promise still more treasures, the National Geographic Society announced in Washington yesterday.

Found in a 1,500-year-old burial place were the remains of a warrior-priest of the Moche people, an important pre-Incan culture that dominated the region from about 100 AD to the close of the seventh century. The Moche mysteriously disappeared long before the Spanish began their conquest in the 1530s.

Mr Christopher Donnan, a professor of anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles, and director of its Museum of Cultural History, said yesterday: "This is the richest tomb ever excavated archaeologically in the Western Hemisphere."

He added that the quality of the gold work was "stunning".

Almost as extraordinary as the treasure itself is the story of how the site was found.

Alerted by the authorities in January, 1987, to an influx of remarkably fine gold and silver pieces appearing on the clandestine antiquities market, Señor Alva accompanied police on a pre-dawn raid of a *huacero* (tomb-robbing) ringmaster's house. One of the looters was fatally wounded in the confrontation.

Señor Alva, at the start of his lengthy article, "Discovering The New World's Richest Unlooted Tomb," says: "... the chief of police rang me near midnight; his voice was urgent: 'We have something you must see — right now.'"

He continues: "Tension ran high during the first weeks of our excavation. Angry villagers ... viewed Luis (Señor Luis Chero, his colleague) and me as a high class of thieves, intent only on enriching ourselves. Brothers of the slain *huacero* daily swore vengeance, shouting curses and death threats."

Among the treasures the scientists recovered were a 28-wide solid-gold crown; a gold face mask; a gold knife and two strands of large gold and silver beads fashioned like peanuts.

Some experts said that the trove of gold and jewels rivalled some of the treasures of Ancient Greece.

The tomb also contained the body of a richly-clad Moche lord, as well as those of two other men, two women and a dog.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Newcastle quay's £120m job boost

The historic Quayside area on the banks of the River Tyne in Newcastle is going to be redeveloped at a cost of £120 million to provide 3,000 jobs to the city, it was announced yesterday.

Work will begin next year to transform the 25-acre site with an exhibition centre, leisure facilities and a luxury hotel. Yesterday the government-funded Tyne and Wear Development Corporation announced that the contract for the work would go to a company called Newcastle Teesside Development, one of three firms which have been bidding for the work.

Plans to transform 120 acres of Plymouth's waterfront into the "Covent Garden of the South-west" and to create up to 3,500 jobs were unveiled yesterday. The £300 million scheme will cover the Royal Navy's 155-year former victualling centre at Royal William Yard and part of the dockyard's South Yard, where buildings date back to 1690.

Thatcher sees Walesa

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will meet Lech Walesa, the Solidarity union leader, when she makes an official visit to Poland next month, it was confirmed by Downing Street yesterday. The visit, from October 16 to 18, will be the first by a British Prime Minister. Mrs Thatcher, who is admired in Poland for her handling of the British economy and firmness with the Soviet leadership, will have talks in Warsaw with General Jaruzelski and with Mr Zbigniew Messner, the prime minister. She also insisted on meeting representatives of independent opinion.

Sand mine defeated

The former chairman of the Amey Roadstone Corporation yesterday won his battle against the company's plan to extract sand from a site near his home. Mr Ron Amey, aged 71, honorary president of the quarrying firm, was among hundreds of objectors to the plan for sand extraction at Hitchcote, near Amersham, Buckinghamshire. County councillors voted unanimously to reject the scheme.

7,000 see Christ film

More than £30,000 was taken in three days by London cinemas showing *The Last Temptation of Christ*, the Martin Scorsese film that church leaders have asked Christians to boycott. United International Pictures (UK), the film's distributor, said the figure of £30,117 was "outstanding", and suggested that more than 7,000 people had seen the film at the Plaza One, the Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue and the Cannon Fulham Road.

Broadmoor challenge

A patient at Broadmoor Special Hospital, Berkshire, won leave yesterday to challenge in the High Court the Secretary of State for Health and the hospital's management board over cuts in visiting hours caused by the nurses' industrial action. The patient, Charlie Smith, who shares a cell with Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, claims that the restrictions now operating both on visits and time out of rooms have adversely affected his mental health and well-being. The hearing is likely to be next month.

Car unions claim £15

Unions representing Austin Rover's 23,000 hourly-paid workers will be asking for a £15-a-week pay rise when they meet management today. They begin the autumn round of pay talks which will see Austin Rover followed to the negotiating table by Jaguar and Peugeot Talbot. The unions are also expected to demand a one-year deal in place of the two-year agreement, shorter hours and better bonuses.

Anglo-Irish conference agrees on new security measures

Dublin says use of internment is 'not on'

By Paul Valley

A number of specific new security measures were agreed at a meeting of the Anglo-Irish conference in Dublin yesterday, but the introduction of internment without trial to combat IRA terrorism was ruled out by the Irish government.

Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish foreign minister, told a press conference to which English reporters were not invited, that the introduction of internment had been excluded from consideration. "It is not on", he is reported to have told the Irish media.

British politicians, including the Prime Minister and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, have, in recent weeks, indicated that, so far as British security policy is concerned, intern-

ment is one of a number of measures still under consideration.

Yesterday, one British source said that was still the case, but security experts agreed that internment could be effective only if it were introduced simultaneously on both sides of the border.

However, Mr King was in buoyant mood yesterday after a series of meetings in Dublin, including talks

with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, and with British and Irish security chiefs.

He said: "I've been encouraged by our discussions today. We dealt with a number of practical issues and I hope that they will be of considerable benefit."

Mr King added that he was conscious of a real political will in Dublin to fight terrorism. Co-

pistol, timing units, detonation cords and other bomb-making materials.

The RUC said last night it had arrested and was questioning a number of men in connection with the arms find. "We are concerned about the consequences of such an arsenal of death being stored in a densely populated area," an RUC spokesman said.

operation between the two governments and their police forces was at its strongest yet. Details of the new measures could not be disclosed.

Patrick Ryan, a suspected member of the IRA who was arrested in Belgium last June, has asked for political asylum, a justice ministry source said yesterday.

Ryan, aged 58, a former missionary in Africa who comes from

Tipperary, was arrested in Brussels on June 30 and charged with possession of a false passport and using a false name. Britain has asked for his extradition.

Police allege that Ryan is a key link in the IRA's European operations and masterminded its gun-running across the Continent.

A security operation costing £1.5 million is being launched to protect the Prime Minister and her Cabinet from IRA attack during the Conservative Party conference in Brighton next month.

The Grand Hotel will be turned into a virtual fortress for the conference as part of measures to prevent a repetition of the IRA bomb attack which killed five people there in 1984.

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No-strike plan for teachers irks hard-left

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The general secretary designate of the National Union of Teachers was heading last night for a dispute with the hard-left on his national executive over his call for a "strike-free" pay deal for teachers.

The leader of the Socialist Teachers' Alliance, Mr Bernard Regan, who was recently elected to the NUT executive, predicted trouble for Mr Doug McAvoy when the union's national executive meets tomorrow in London.

Mr Regan said he intended to raise Mr McAvoy's call, made in an interview with *The Times* during the annual TUC Congress last week.

Although Mr McAvoy, who is due to stand for election for the job of general secretary next summer, ruled out a formal no-strike deal he outlined a system which he said would make strikes in schools unnecessary.

Mr Regan said last night: "I do not think he will get it through our annual conference next Easter. Opposition will come from all shades of political opinion. 'I think it has really dam-

aged his chances of being elected as general secretary. This idea of a strike-free deal had raised questions about his leadership."

However, Mr McAvoy was last night said to be quietly confident that his plan would win wide support, particularly among the broad-left grouping which controls the union's executive. He is encouraged by support for his idea from Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman.

His proposal for a new system for settling teachers' pay is based on the creation of a new National Joint Council, with teachers negotiating directly with the local authority employers. Either side would have the right to seek arbitration and any arbitration award would be binding on both sides. In return, the union would agree not to strike while talks were going on.

Meanwhile, the NUT announced last night that it would ballot its 2,000 members in the Labour-controlled London Borough of Brent next week on a call for a half-day strike in protest at plans to make 233 teachers redundant.

Test-tube calves go on show



Mr Philip Paxman with some of the calves born from embryos fertilized in the laboratory.

By John Young, Agricultural Correspondent

The world's first test tube calves, born from embryos fertilized and cultured in the laboratory, appeared in public at Cambridge yesterday.

From next year, Britain's cattle farmers will be able to order embryos of selected stock. About 50,000 frozen

'straws' are expected to be available for distribution in the first year through the Milk Marketing Board's artificial insemination service.

The immediate aim of the programme is to improve the quality of beef calves from dairy herds.

The system has been developed commercially by Animal Biotechnology Cambridge

Limited, successor to the government-funded Animal Research Station. Its scientific director, Dr Christopher Polge, is former director of the station where he developed the technique of freezing semen.

Mr Philip Paxman, the company's chairman and chief executive, said yesterday that embryo production would begin next month.

Wapping case man wins job

A newspaper production worker who was dismissed during the dispute at Wapping, east London, won his job back at an industrial tribunal in London yesterday.

The panel ordered that Mr Thomas Good, aged 45, of Goswell Road, Islington, north London, be re-engaged on terms to be decided. The three-member panel rejected an additional claim from Mr Good for extra compensation on the grounds he was dismissed for being a union member.

Mr Good, a former engineer's assistant with the company, the publishers of *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, was sent a dismissal notice intended for striking workers the day after he went on holiday in January 1986.

The company admitted at an earlier hearing in June that Mr Good had been unfairly dismissed but it was prepared only to offer him the statutory compensation of £8,300 based on his length of service.

After the hearing Mr Good said: "I am delighted with the order for reinstatement. I have been vindicated."

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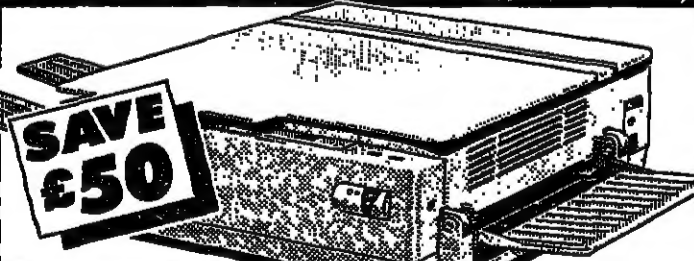
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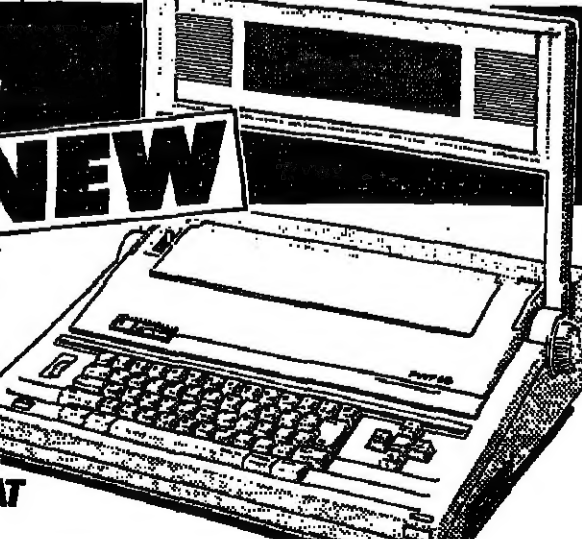
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Schools win power to sue parents over wasted exam fees

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Parents of pupils who fail to complete their GCSE course could be sued by schools which have wasted money on examination fees.

A new power to sue, which will come into force on April 1 next year, is detailed in a draft advice circular on charging in state schools, issued yesterday to local education authorities in England and Wales.

It says that if a pupil fails "without good cause" to complete the examination requirements for any public examination, including failure to complete course-work or to sit a final exam - the fee can be "recovered from the parent".

The circular adds that it is up to school governors or local authorities to decide what constitutes a good cause.

The average cost of entering a pupil for GCSE is about £12 a subject and each 16-year-old is likely to be entered for between five and eight.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "It would be wrong to penalize a family if the circumstances are beyond the pupil's control."

"But if there are no extenuating circumstances, I think it is perfectly appropriate to bring home the consequences of not meeting the examination requirements."

The circular also says parents should be charged for damage caused by their children, from broken windows to vandalized books, but the power to sue is not extended to cover such charges.

The school in Derbyshire which has only one pupil is to close next year, the governors announced yesterday.

Anna White, aged five, was left the sole pupil at the school at Ashford-in-the-Water, near Bakewell, after other pupils moved to different schools.

Mr Tom Dye, a diocesan director of education, said: "No case can be made out for the preservation of this little school."

The measures are among a number introduced by the Education Reform Act, which became law last July, in an attempt to end confusion over charges on parents.

In yesterday's draft circular, the Department of Education spells out for the first time how the powers can be used.

It says the "basic underlying principle" remains that state education should be free of charge. Where charges are levied, schools and education authorities will be required to have policies for remitting them in cases of hardship.

Almost all activities in school hours will be free of charge, including trips to sports facilities and swimming baths for which some authorities have in the past charged.

Parents will have to pay for individual music tuition which is not part of an examination course but activities outside school hours which are part of examination syllabuses or the new national curriculum will be free.

Schools will be allowed to charge for board and lodging,

although not transport, on field trips organized as part of examination courses.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said it welcomed the clarification of the law. But Mr Bob Morris, the association's education officer, said the circular failed to make clear whether an education authority would have the right to overrule a school's policy if it felt it was unfair.

London employers will face a recruitment crisis over the next six years because of the fall in the number of school-leavers and the creation of new jobs in Docklands, it was predicted yesterday.

Mr Richard Martineau, Chief Executive of the London Education Business Partnership, said that the situation would be made worse by rising house prices which would force commuters further out of the capital.

Speaking at a meeting of representatives of 100 companies involved in the London Compact - a scheme guaranteeing jobs to teenagers in return for good school performance - he said companies must recruit in the inner city to survive.

"Inner city residents have to be persuaded that employers see them as a source for highly skilled workers whilst the public and private sectors have to work together to raise standards in education and training," he said.

Mr Martineau predicted that Docklands development would create an extra 120,000 jobs in London.

Letters, page 13

Household Cavalry greets Extra Stout



Extra Stout, the world's biggest shire horse, with his groom, Mr David Hargreaves, meeting the Household Cavalry's drum horse in Hyde Park, London, yesterday. Extra Stout, standing more than 19 hands and weighing 1.25 tonnes, lodged at the regiment's Hyde Park barracks, Knightsbridge, after helping to launch an export beer range for his owners, Samuel Smith Brewers, of Tadcaster (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Gang in krugerrand VAT fraud jailed

Eight men, including two former customs officers, were jailed yesterday for a value-added tax fraud involving krugerrands and scrap metal.

A man convicted on Saturday died in custody before he was sentenced. Another is on the run after jumping bail during the seven-month trial.

All were convicted of conspiracy to cheat. Barry Terry, aged 34, a former Customs and Excise chief

inspector, was jailed at Southwark Crown Court, south-east London, for three years for accepting a £200 bribe.

Graham Branton, aged 35, of Egham, Surrey, a former customs officer at Heathrow recruited by Terry, was jailed for five years.

George Bloomfield, aged 49, of Ruislip, north-west London, who acted as courier between Jersey and Heathrow to buy krugerrands, was the

only one to plead guilty. He was jailed for four years.

Ian Ramage, a former Metropolitan Police officer, who left the force in 1972 and acted as salesman for the gold in Britain, was jailed for four years.

Andrew Roberts, aged 31, a commodity broker, of St Helier, Channel Islands, and Robert Elvin, aged 50, of Welling, south-east London, were jailed for five years.

Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, who jumped bail after giving evidence, was jailed in absence for five years.

Wilfred Grant, aged 51, of Bexleyheath, east London, died in Brixton prison, south London, on Saturday. Roy Mathias, aged 51, scrap metal dealer, of Enfield, north London, was jailed for seven years.

Robert Herring, aged 35, of Abbey Wood, south London, was jailed for four years.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Diligence pays off

Persistence paid off for Mrs Patricia O'Brien, of Brixton, south-west London, joint winner of £4,000 in The Times Portfolio competition yesterday.

"Even yesterday, my husband suggested that we throw away our cards", she said. Now she plans to spread "a little financial happiness" in her family with her £2,000 share.

The other winner is Miss Margaret Blanks, from North Yorkshire, who said that she would probably invest her portion in the Stock Exchange.

Crossbow killing

Police renew appeal to shopkeepers

By Michael Horsnell

Murder squad detectives will mingle with mourners today at the funeral in Sheffield of Diana Maw, aged 36, who was killed by a crossbow bolt through the base of her skull outside her west London flat last July.

Police, who have interviewed nearly 2,000 people in the hunt for her killer, are evaluating the 100 telephone calls they received last week after an artist's impression was shown on the BBC television programme *Crime Watch UK* of a man seen with a crossbow in the area two days before the killing.

But police, who have located nearly 100 crossbow owners in the London area and combed shops selling the weapon, appear to be no

nearer solving the crime which is Britain's fifth crossbow murder.

They have renewed an appeal to shopkeepers who may have been on holiday at the time of earlier appeals if they recalled selling such a weapon shortly before July 20.

Yesterday the victim's mother, Mrs Sheila Maw, a retired GP, called for legal controls on the use of crossbows.

She said: "There has to be legislation controlling who owns them by a licensing system. That way some good might come from this evil."

"We go round and round the question whether Diana knew her murderer or whether he was an opportunist robber. The fact is we just don't know."

The police have a very difficult job on their hands.

Miss Maw, a former pupil at Cheltenham Ladies' College and a successful management consultant with the Industrial Society in London, was shot with a bolt from a Barnett Trident crossbow on a private landing outside her luxury flat on the first floor of a modern block in Ealing.

Detectives, led by Det Supt Malcolm Hackett, have pinpointed the murder as having been between 8am and 8.15am on July 20, though her body was not found until more than three hours later by her next-door neighbour, Mr Ali Farnham, an Iranian student.

Mr Hackett yesterday described the crossbow as a

"very dangerous toy" of which there are probably 250,000 in Britain. He said the velocity of the bolt indicated a "prod" or bow of 75lbs pressure. "It was an unusual time of day for a robbery and we are keeping an open mind about that as we are the possibility that the victim and murderer knew each other", he said.

"She may have been targeted, she may not. Her assailant was using a crossbow for the first time as there are no other comparable instances on record."

"If it's a robbery which went wrong we are looking for a mugger who was graduating to bigger things, perhaps on the edge of using a gun. There are still a few people of that kind we need to speak to."

NHS review

Call for quality not quantity

By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

Attempts by the Government to reward efficiency in the National Health Service may lead to lower standards of health care, the presidents of the royal medical colleges said yesterday.

Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, president of the Royal College of Physicians, said doctors and managers should be rewarded for providing care of a higher quality rather than for treating more patients.

Sir Raymond said: "A 'revolving door mechanism', where patients were pushed in and out of hospital as fast as possible, could lead to patients being discharged quicker but sicker."

Referring to reports that the NHS review is likely to target resources to the most efficient hospitals and doctors, Sir Raymond said: "We do not think this is the best criteria on which to judge medical performance. Often the service is inferior not better. We should be judging the quality of the service not the number of patients seen."

The presidents of all 12 royal colleges said in a statement issued yesterday, that they were still very concerned about the effect of the financial restrictions now placed on the NHS.

Mr Ian Todd, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, said: "The situation is not getting any better and the cash cuts have already gone too far."

A drop in overseas patients meant that more than half the private hospitals in London made a loss in 1986/87. Figures published in the latest *Fitzhugh Directory of Independent Hospitals* confirm the growing trend of private hospital development in the provinces and show that private health insurers seem to have pushed down hospital costs. Sixteen of London's 29 hospitals reported a loss of £5.7 million. The hospitals generated £96 million, about 25 percent of the total private acute hospital income of £395 million. "The Arab boom is no longer here," said Mr William Fitzhugh, editor of the directory.

The amount of money put into the service has not kept up with pay awards or inflation. In a climate of increasing difficulties we are trying to make sure that standards are being maintained.

The royal colleges called for much stricter measures to monitor quality. Both the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians are now insisting that medical audits, in which doctors review each other's performance, are set up for all new training posts.

Mr Todd claimed that the shortage of resources was already leading to serious problems in training young doctors. Some departments risked losing their training recognition because they could not provide adequate supervision or a broad range of experience.

The college of surgeons was considering whether to withdraw teaching recognition from about 20 per cent of the posts that came up for renewal. All departments were being given a six-month period in which to improve their training programme and in many cases that threat had proved sufficient. Many departments would find it impossible to recruit juniors and would therefore lose their viability if recognition was withdrawn, Mr Todd said.

Junior surgeons often had no experience of routine operations such as hip replacements because many of these patients were no longer admitted to hospital.

"They are only dealing with emergencies and major operations. Another problem is that juniors often find themselves chasing around trying to find spare beds instead of gaining clinical experience."

The presidents are now arranging a meeting with Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, to emphasize their concerns. They will call for more money and for more consultants for the NHS.

Yesterday, they argued that the Government had failed to honour a commitment it had made in its report, *Achieving a Balance*, to increase the number of consultant posts. "We have had no increase at all in consultant surgical posts," Mr Todd said.

Sick man dies after burglary

By Craig Seton

A bed-ridden man with terminal cancer and heart disease has died after being attacked in his home by burglars.

Mr Frederick Hattey, aged 68, a widower, was dragged out of his bed and punched and kicked in the face during the raid on his council home in Lea Hall, Birmingham, late on Sunday night.

Mr Hattey, a retired lorry driver was found slumped beside his bed by his daughter, Mrs Pat Jardine, when she arrived to make his breakfast on Monday morning, but he died several hours later at East Birmingham Hospital.

Mrs Jardine said: "He was dying from cancer and might have lasted only a few weeks, but the shock killed him."

The raiders escaped with cash from electricity and gas meters, and a microwave oven, after ransacking the house.

Three youths, aged 15, were being questioned by police last night.

Trials inquest

An inquest into the death of Mark Davies, the first rider to be killed in the 27-year history of the Burghley Horse Trials, was adjourned yesterday. Mr Davies, aged 27, an insurance broker from Cranleigh, Surrey, died from head injuries after falling last weekend.

Village brawl

Four youths wielding baseball bats went on the rampage in the Hampshire village of Tadley on Monday night, leaving five people injured. The youths, all in their late teens, attacked up to 30 other people. Police from Basingstoke helped to restore order.

500 miles of coastline now protected

By John Young

Enterprise Neptune, the campaign launched nearly a quarter of a century ago by the National Trust to protect the coasts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, reaches its 500th milestone today.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, will be among the guests at a ceremony near Horden, in Co Durham, to mark the acquisition from British Coal,

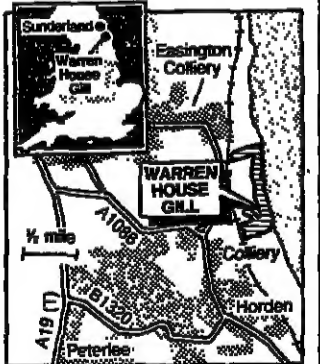
for a nominal sum, of a stretch of isolated cliffs blackened by pit waste, surrounded by colliery buildings and known as Warren House Gill.

The cliffs are rich in wildlife and as mining in the area comes to an end, the trust is confident that careful cleaning, together with the natural action of waves and tides, will rejuvenate the shoreline.

Enterprise Neptune was launched by the Duke of Edinburgh in May 1965 at a time of growing concern about unsuit-

able coastal developments. Within a year the first purchase was completed: three miles of beach, dunes and salt marsh at Whitford Burrows, in Glamorgan.

The appeal was relaunched in 1985 and has now raised more than £11 million. But it is likely to be well into the next century before the final target of 900 miles is reached: at the current estimated cost of £15 a foot, a further £31 million will be required.



Illegitimate births increase

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Nearly three in four births to teenage women in 1987 took place outside marriage, almost double the proportion of 10 years ago, according to the latest *Population Trends*.

There were 158,000 births outside marriage last year, more than in any previous year.

Compared with just below 10 per cent of all live births in 1977 and 21.4 per cent in 1986, 23.2 per cent in 1987 occurred outside marriage. The largest increase, however,

has been to women aged 20 to 24: about 31 per cent, more than three times the proportion in 1977.

The journal of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys says that about 68 per cent of births outside marriage in 1987 were jointly registered, and in 70 per cent of those cases the mother and father gave the same address as their usual place of residence.

It is estimated from the *General Household Survey*

that in 1985, 16 per cent of women in Britain who were not legally married were cohabiting, compared with 11 per cent in 1979.

Eighteen per cent of all conceptions during 1986 were legally terminated by abortion and a third of those which occurred to teenage girls.

The 1987 figure of 682,000 live births in England and Wales was the highest annual total since 1972.

Population Trends 53 - Autumn 1988 (Stationary Office, £6.50).

Amstrad hit by shortage of vital chips

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Mr Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, the consumer electronics company, said yesterday that he has been forced to delay production of new computers because of a shortage of vital chips made almost exclusively in Japan.

Computers made by Amstrad, and many of its rivals, depend on the components, known as 256K dynamic random access memory (Dram) chips, for their ability to perform such tasks as generating full-colour graphics.

But Japan, the only major source of 256K Drams, has been cutting production after an agreement with the United States last year to stop what the

US Government described as the "dumping" of cheap Drams on the world market. Japan responded by switching to the production of more exotic chips.

Speaking at the launch yesterday of a new range of Amstrad computers aimed at the business user, Mr Sugar said that his company was being hit very badly by the shortage.

"There is a severe problem with Drams at the moment, and we are hurting", he said. Amstrad is suffering a 30 per cent shortfall in the number of chips it needs.

Mr Sugar said that as a direct result of the shortage he would be unable to put the two most sophisticated computers in

the company's new range on the market-place until next spring. Amstrad was having to share out the available chips among its most profitable models.

Mr Sugar said he did not expect the situation to improve until at least the third quarter of next year. "It's the first time in our history that an external force has held us back."

Earlier this year, the company increased the prices of some of its products because of a 150-fold jump in the price of a 256K Dram caused by the shortage. It has also been forced to pass on the higher chip cost in the price of the PC 2000 range launched yesterday.

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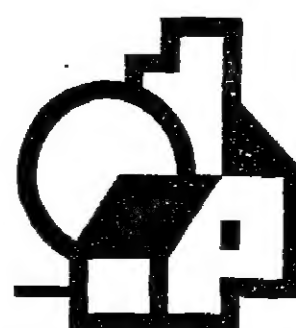
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Commander tells of armed, ruthless terrorists

SAS 'shouted warnings before they opened fire'

The SAS men who gunned down an IRA bomb team in Gibraltar shouted warnings before they opened fire, their commander said yesterday.

But they were convinced the three terrorists were armed and ruthless and would not give a second chance, he said.

The soldiers who shot the three believed they were about to cause "absolute carnage" by triggering a big bomb by radio control.

The commander, referred to as E, said they shot one man repeatedly to make sure he was dead and could not press a button to set off the explosion.

He told the Gibraltar inquest into the death of the terrorists that Sean Savage was killed because he swung around in a crouching stance and put one hand to his hips when challenged.

Once firing started, the object was to kill, the commander said. Attempting to arrest Savage as he lay wounded would have been inefficient and dangerous.

Soldier E was the tactical commander of the SAS men involved in the operation which ended when Savage, Mairead Farrell and Danny McCann died in a hail of gunfire.

He told the inquest the SAS were warriors, but said they had set out to arrest the three. He gave a minute-by-minute account of how the terrorists were seen and followed in Gibraltar and what happened when they were confronted.

In answer to questions from Mr Patrick McGrory, representing the families of the dead, he said Savage was a short distance from the others when the four SAS men split into pairs and the firing began. It appeared Savage did not see the other two being shot.

Savage was challenged and shot as he turned around. He was not running away; he was appearing to do the opposite — to be "dangerous and lethally aggressive".

In all probability Savage, an expert bombmaker, would have been carrying a gun and was likely to be the one with the button device for detonating a bomb.

Mr McGrory: "He knew he wasn't".

Soldier E: "Aha, but we didn't know. By his movements the soldiers had reasonable grounds for believing he was a lethal threat. It's as simple as that."



GIBRALTAR INQUEST

The intention from the moment the firing began was to kill him. "That is standard and only by so doing could the threat be removed", he said.

E gave his evidence with the booming voice of an officer briefing his men before action. The security curtain was pulled back so that only Mr Felix Pizzarello, the coroner, lawyers and jury could see him.

At one stage E demonstrated the warning the soldiers gave by roaring it across the court.

E said everyone involved in the operation met at a mid-night briefing on March 5-6. "The confirmation we were given was based not on guesswork, but on a mixture, a blend, of fact and careful assessment."

He said they were told: "An IRA attack was planned on the Army band parade on March 8."

It would be a car bomb explosion, probably a big one with much death.

It would be a button job — triggered by sophisticated radio control from a distance.

The IRA's option to use a blocking car to reserve a parking space for the car bomb was discounted.

Farrell had served 14 years for bombing a Belfast hotel. Savage was an expert bombmaker. McCann was a known killer and bomber.

The active service unit was ruthless, usually armed and if confronted would use whatever weapons they had. They were also likely to use whatever button jobs they possessed. "In short, they would not give a second chance."

E said there was no surveillance on the Spanish side of the border, so intelligence services would not know when or which of the three would bring the bomb across.

Savage appeared dangerous and lethally aggressive

There were two points of particular emphasis to my soldiers before, at and after the briefing", he said. "One, that at least one of the three terrorists, if not more, would in all probability be armed and, second, there was a strong likelihood that at least one, if not more, of the three terrorists would be carrying a button job device."

He said he gave the briefing the three military options available. One: arrest the three as they crossed the border. This was the favoured option, but there was no surveillance in Spain and so it would have been difficult to spot them at the border. There would have been only 10 or 15 seconds to identify them.

Two: arrest all three when they parked the car in Gibraltar. This also relied on advance warning.

Three: arrest whoever was in the car and any other terrorists when they were positively identified in Gibraltar. "This was the one we adopted", E said.

The operation began in the early afternoon of March 6. E went to a secret operations room to work with police.

SAS soldiers A and B took up position around a convent near the square where the IRA team parked the car. Soldiers C and D were placed near the Queen's Hotel in Gibraltar town centre. All four had 9mm Browning semi-automatic pistols loaded with 13 bullets.

At 14.30 McCann and Farrell were seen crossing the border. Later there was a sighting of Savage. At 15.00 all three met and began walking together. The trio were tracked through Gibraltar. They walked past soldiers C and D, who identified them from photographs, and set off in pursuit.

Savage briefly split from McCann and Farrell, but they were seen together again at 15.30.

Soldiers C and D took up position at a Mobil petrol station near the border and could see the terrorists frequently checking behind themselves. Soldier G — the explosives expert — left the operations room and checked the car the trio had parked.

The Police Commissioner asked again for positive identification of the three so he could be 100 per cent sure and this was quickly done, E said.

"G then returned to the operations room and said that from a visual investigation he was able to confirm our suspicion that we were definitely dealing with a car bomb."

At 15.40 police handed over control to the military. A, B, C and D were told to arrest the three terrorists and given control on the ground.

"At 15.47 or 15.48 I received a report that the apprehension of the terrorists had taken place. However, it was not clear whether apprehension meant arrest or they had been shot. By 16.00 I had confirmed that the terrorists had been shot. They were dead."

E said all three were shot before the warnings were completed, and he then went on to describe how Farrell and McCann died.

Look of recognition came into McCann's eyes

Soldiers were standing behind the pair at the time, and after the warning was shouted, Farrell brought her hands up to the middle of her body and clutched at her handbag.

"But what precipitated the whole incident was the fact that McCann turned to look over his shoulder while he was having a conversation with Farrell and stared fully in the eye of soldier A who, along with soldier B, was behind them."

"As described by soldier A, the look of recognition came into McCann's eyes. There was a complete change of expression indicating completely to A that he was recognized", he said. They were two or three metres away at the time.

"He (McCann) did make a movement, and the movement consisted of bringing his torso round to one side and making a reaching movement with his arm", E said.

Many soldiers, children and pensioners would have been killed or maimed and there would have been absolute carnage if the IRA bomb had exploded, soldier G, an Army explosives expert, told the inquest, which continues today.

Princes go back to school

By Alan Hamilton

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to make an official visit to China next autumn.

The invitation was issued by President Li during the Queen's highly successful state visit in 1986 and like the Queen, the Royal couple will also visit Hong Kong.

Buckingham Palace is still working out dates and the itinerary with government officials in Peking, but it is almost certain that the couple will largely follow in the Queen's footsteps with visits to Peking, Shanghai, Canton, and the buried terracotta army of Xian.

The Queen's visit was followed last year by Princess Margaret and her two children, Viscount Linley and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones.

That invitations to other members of the Royal Family are still being extended and accepted is taken as an indication that the British and Chinese governments remain satisfied with progress towards Hong Kong's return to China.

It is also an indication that the Chinese did not take too seriously the Duke of Edinburgh's memorable gaffe in 1986 when he told Scottish students at Xian University they would become slitty-eyed if they stayed much longer.

The Chinese embassy in London said yesterday that the Queen's tour had been watched avidly by millions of Chinese on television. Most people in China would now know who the Prince and Princess of Wales were.

The Princess of Wales opened a new £3.2 million clinic for AIDS victims at St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea, yesterday and met seven victims of the disease.



Prince Henry waves as he and his brother, Prince William, are taken to school in west London by their mother, the Princess of Wales (Photograph: James Gray).

Cash backing for pollution projects

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

The Government announced yesterday a new scheme to combat pollution from liquid industrial waste of rivers and the North Sea.

The Department of the Environment will pay up to 50 per cent of the costs of research into more effective ways of eliminating heavy metals and organic compounds from discharges.

The object is to prevent pollution, particularly from smaller firms, which cannot be treated adequately through the public sewage system.

Projects for support will be selected by an environmental protection technology scheme for which the Department of the Environment is allocating

A sanctuary and breathing unit for seals is to be built on Teesside to enable researchers to study the virus afflicting the North Sea population, it was announced yesterday.

The government-funded Teesside Development Cor-

poration said it was providing £50,000 in response to the outbreak of canine distemper. Already hundreds of common seals have died and there are fears that it could also devastate the grey seal population around the British coast.

A third and more difficult issue arises in halting discharges unconnected with manufacturing. Compounds of PCB are no longer made but they are still widely used as insulating material and lubricants for electrical equipment.

Ten Greenpeace protesters spent almost four hours yesterday handcuffed to a sludge disposal ship in Liverpool docks. They were calling on the Government to back a European Parliament emergency resolution calling for a ban on sewage sludge dumping at sea.

Those would modify manufacturing or processing operations to prevent hazardous compounds spilling over into waste waters.

Air crash

MP denies flight 'mystery'

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A senior investigator from the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch last night flew to Turin to probe the cause of the crash of a Cessna light aircraft in which the sons of a former MP were killed.

Early indications are that Andrew and Randall Crawley's aircraft flew in thick cloud into a hillside near Corio Cavanese, near the Italian border, possibly suffering from icing problems on the wings.

Mr Winston Churchill, MP, who flew to the scene of the crash, strongly denied suggestions that there was some mystery about the flight.

In a letter to *The Times* Mr Churchill, a close friend of the Crawley family, says that he was "deeply shocked" by suggestions that the pilots had given false names and made false declarations about the number of people aboard the

aircraft. An apparent discrepancy between the names on the flight plan handed in at the southern Italian airport of Bari and at Turin, was simply because both brothers were qualified pilots. "The Bari flight plan was signed by Randall Crawley and the Turin flight plan by Andrew Crawley", he says.

The full history of the flight will, however, be the subject of an intensive investigation both by an Italian commission and the Department of Transport's own investigator.

They will want to be certain that suggestions that the aircraft may have had mechanical difficulties before leaving Bari and may even have had a radio problem as it flew northwards before landing in Turin en route to Luton, had no bearing on the crash, and to study all the documentation which, according to

Italian officials, was "incomplete". The Cessna T 210, also known as a Turbo-Centurion, was just four minutes out of the airfield when it disappeared.

One of the most obvious causes of such a crash is that the pilot took a wrong route in the hilly countryside and simply flew into a mountain.

Alternatively the aircraft could have suffered from icing in the thick clouds and, perhaps because its centre of gravity was wrongly calculated, fell out of the sky.

It will be some months before a full report is made available into the causes of the crash.

Mr Churchill accompanied the victims' sister, Harriet, to a mortuary to identify the bodies, but they had been burnt beyond recognition and identification will be based on dental records.

Letters, page 13

Court of Appeal asked to cut delays in benefit

Councils and advice groups yesterday asked the Court of Appeal to order the Government to reduce delays in payment of benefit claims.

The court is being asked to overturn a ruling that the Secretary of State for Social Services was not in breach of his duty by failing to ensure that benefit claims were processed in 14 days.

The Child Poverty Action Group, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux and the London bor-

oughs of Hackney and Islington are seeking to reverse the February 1987 decision of Mr Justice Schiemann. They argue that claims should be dealt with in 14 days unless further investigation is needed.

He refused their application for judicial review and ruled that Parliament had not expressly imposed a duty on the minister to appoint sufficient officers to deal rapidly with claims.

The hearing continues today.

Plot 'could have killed dolphin'

A dolphin said to have been the target of an animal rights activists' plot could have died during attempts to take it from its pool in a seaside marine park, a court was told yesterday.

Rocky, a 650lb dolphin worth £25,000, would probably have been too clever to have been caught, Mr John Braithwaite, general manager of Morecambe's Marineland told Lancaster Crown Court.

He was giving evidence in the trial of four animal rights campaigners accused of conspiring to steal Rocky, and denied the dolphin was kept in "cruel and demeaning" circumstances.

Mel Broughton, aged 28, of Watkins Terrace, Northampton; Barry Horne, aged 36, of Coney Tree Court, Northampton; James O'Donnell, aged 20, of Guilsborough Road, Ravenshorpe, Northamptonshire; and James Buckner, aged 54, of St Joseph Souldern, Bicester, Oxfordshire, have all denied the charge. All say they are animal rights campaigners.

The trial continues today.



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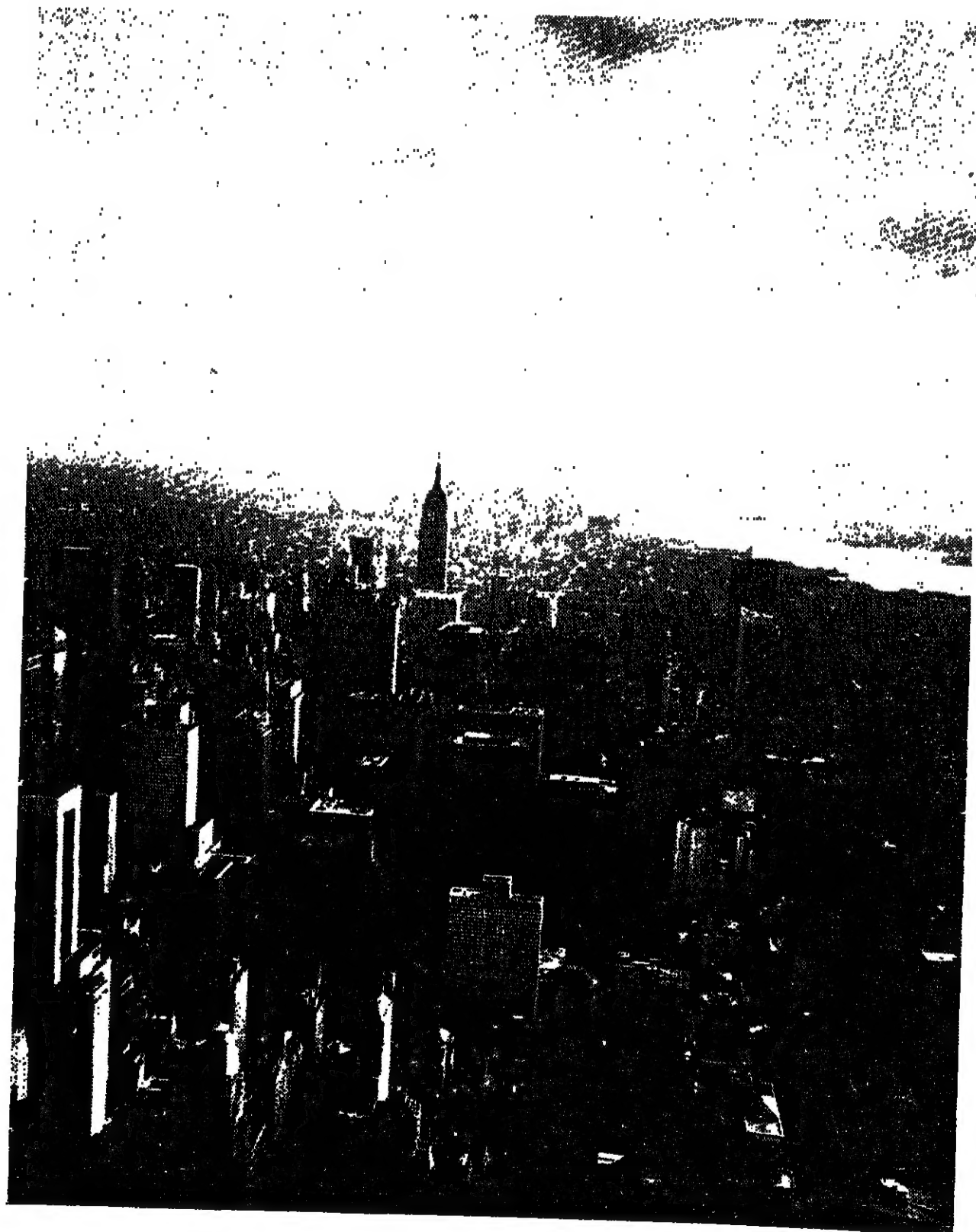
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A third of Scots to get poll tax rebate, pledges Rifkind

By Kerry Gill

The Government attempted to defuse a campaign against the community charge yesterday by announcing that a third of people in Scotland will qualify for rebates when the tax is levied in April.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said that the ability to pay would be a fundamental aspect of the community charge, or poll tax, and that more than half of Scotland's pensioners would qualify for rebates.

The announcement was made in the middle of a week of protest organized by the Scottish TUC to publicize the "evils" of the poll tax which, it claims, will make the rich better off and the poor, poorer. A big plank of the opposition's case has been that the poll tax takes no account of an individual's ability to pay.

However, Mr Rifkind said: "Every person in Scotland who currently pays domestic rates will cease to do so and the effect of that for very many people, including a very high proportion of single pensioners and single persons, will be that their payments to the local council will be less."

The poll tax is estimated to cost each person about £250 but, Mr Rifkind said, those on income support would pay the community charge at only one fifth the rate of those on more comfortable incomes.

Mr Rifkind's statement, made in Edinburgh just one hour before the so-called "eleventh hour" protest in which trade unionists in Scotland were called upon to down tools for 11 minutes, was clearly designed to take the sting out of the campaign.

The attempt by the Labour Party and the Scottish National Party (SNP) to frustrate the introduction of the community charge are causing infinitely more embarrassment and problems for them than for the Government", Mr Rifkind said.

"The effect so far has been limited to revealing a deep and continuing split within the Labour Party and exposing the SNP as a party of enthusiastic law breakers. Their attempts to frustrate registration have been a fiasco."

More than 90 per cent of people, and up to 98 per cent in some areas, had registered, with a month still to go before the deadline.

The Labour Party in Scotland is holding a conference on Saturday to discuss the anti-poll tax campaign. The leadership is expected to win a vote calling for continued opposition "within the law", thus countering a move by some members to launch a campaign of non-payment.

The conference will take place in Glasgow, Govan, where a by-election will be held shortly. Mr Bruce Millan, its Labour MP, is to become an EEC Commissioner.

Yesterday, Mr Rifkind said the Opposition's campaign was a "damp squib".

"Those demonstrating in Scotland at the weekend numbered only about 3,000, far less than those who voted Tory in Govan at the General Election."

He said the rebate scheme would be publicized by local authorities and through the notice of register which will be sent out over the next few weeks. The Scottish Office would also launch an advertising campaign.

People who thought they should qualify for rebates would be able to apply to local authorities within the next few months. Applicants will be asked to supply details of income, capital, age, disabilities, and any dependent children.

Those eligible for rebates would include married couples with two children aged under 11 with a gross income of less than £8,000 a year; couples on a pension with unearned incomes of less than £6,300; single parents with one child with a gross income of less than £5,120; and single people with gross incomes of less than £3,570.

They would all be presented with a reduced bill for the poll tax rather than having to wait for a refund from councils.

£5m laser concert 'will go on'



M. Jean-Michel Jarre with his wife, Charlotte Rampling, at the Royal Victoria Docks yesterday (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

By Andrew Billen

The £5 million music and laser concert planned for later this month could go ahead in spite of this week's ban on staging it in the London Docklands.

M. Jean-Michel Jarre, the rock musician, said yesterday that he had received many offers to host the show after Newham council refused an entertainment licence.

The environmental planning committee had been told that police, ambulance and fire services, and the council's own officers were concerned about crowd control and safety.

M. Jarre said that the extravaganza would go ahead within three weeks with

an announcement in the next two days. Promoters claimed that Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham and Milton Keynes were all interested.

Mr David Heartfield, marketing director of promoters RGE, said there had been approaches "from every major city in the country. We have had city councils, private promoters, even farmers asking us to stage it in their fields, ringing us."

Standing on the floating stage from which the event was to have been directed on September 24, M. Jarre accused Newham of being negative, and said: "I really consider that they went back on their word."

Miss Charlotte Rampling, who is

married to M. Jarre, said the show was not a rock concert. "It's more like a modern opera. It doesn't incite violence."

Milton Keynes Development Corporation said it had been approached by the organizers. If they were happy to use the new town's bowl, venue for last Saturday's Michael Jackson concert, an entertainment licence already existed.

The promoters said they have already spent £1.5 million. The concert has been nearly two years in planning and more than 200 workers have been on site during the past weeks. More than 100,000 tickets, costing up to £30 each and worth £2 million, have been sold, including 50,000 to Newham council.

Russians fear drug mafia infiltration

By Stewart Tandler

Soviet drugs investigators fear international trafficking gangs could infiltrate the growing illegal drugs market in Russia, a senior Moscow customs official told an international police conference in London yesterday.

He admitted the Soviet Union had already become a transit area for drug cargoes, including cocaine sent round the world from South America and destined for the West.

In a rare view of Russian drug problems Mr Vitaly Boyarov, first deputy chairman of the Directorate of State Customs Controls, disclosed the Soviet Union had about 130,000 drug abusers, including 51,000 addicts. There was also "an upward trend" in Soviet drug abuse.

Speaking at the International Police Exhibition and Conference, he said *glasnost* itself had meant wider foreign travel by Soviet citizens and more foreigners visiting the Soviet Union, where cannabis plants and opium poppies could be grown.

"The international drugs mafia has not taken over the Soviet market yet but given the broadening international links it may try to do so", he said. There were already signs that international gangs were passing drugs through the Soviet Union.

Earlier this week, Mr Boyarov signed a memorandum of international co-operation with British customs officials.

He said that in four operations since 1986 the Russians had co-operated with Dutch, Canadians, Belgians and British investigators. Hundreds of thousands of tons of cannabis from Afghanistan and Pakistan had been seized.

Mr Edwin Meese, former US Attorney General, described to the conference a new international initiative starting this summer which involved 30 Latin American and European countries. In its first phase, 8,400 kilos of cocaine and 222,000 kilos of cannabis had been seized and more than 1,200 arrests had been made.

Asbestos in TV studios

BBC 'put royal lives at risk'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Members of the Royal Family, successive prime ministers and the world's most famous entertainers have had their lives put at risk by the BBC failing to deal with the threat of potentially lethal asbestos dust, it was claimed last night.

The corporation was accused of incompetence stretching back almost 20 years after an inquiry into the closure of seven production studios at the White City Television Centre in west London last May as a result of more asbestos discoveries.

Popular BBC programmes, including *That's Life*, *Top of the Pops*, and *Wogan*, were cancelled or made at different locations.

Asbestos dust, even in low doses, can cause a cancer known as mesothelioma.

A report by the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance, published last night after a union inquiry into the closure of the BBC studios, said: "There was ignorance, confusion and procrastination. Above all there was great lack of care."

It added: "It is, of course, not only BBC staff who may have been exposed but royalty, presidents, prime ministers and MPs, great actors and entertainers, as well as hit players and members of the audience."

But last night the BBC claimed if anyone had been at risk, it would have been people involved regularly in asbestos removal. "Risks to others in the studios would have been unmeasurable but likely to be slightly higher than the one-in-a-million risk of mesothelioma in the general population."

BETA claimed the risk could have been avoided had the BBC taken two "very simple" actions. The corporation should have encapsulated the asbestos much earlier and when the encapsulation was carried out, the BBC should have followed Health and Safety Executive advice and carried out regular checks.

"All this they were advised to do in 1969. Instead they wasted 10 years before having the encapsulation done, and they did not make proper arrangements for its checking or maintenance", the union report added.

BETA called for the dismissal of top management. "Let's have no more excuses. Excuses have cost our members' lives."

"The death of Michael Lush [the stuntman], the deaths from legionella, the possible deaths from mesothelioma... All have one fundamental cause: the failure of the BBC to face up to their safety

responsibilities." The BBC said that after the asbestos discovery the studios were taken out of service and "a rigorous programme of examination, tests and cleaning was put into operation" with advice from the Health and Safety Executive.

As many as 20 new local radio stations could be broadcasting by the middle of next year if the Home Office agrees to a proposal from the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which this week asked for permission to advertise franchises.

The first new stations could be on the air by next spring. A last-minute attempt to persuade the Government to change its mind over the key contents of the broadcasting White Paper was made last night by a top independent television executive.

Mr David McCall, chief executive of Anglia TV and chairman of the Independent Television Association until last month, urged ministers to step back from their expected decision to put franchises out to competitive tender in 1991.

He said: "No nation in the world would risk dismantling a commercial television system which has provided a programme service of excellence and diversity which is the envy of the world."

Unions 'frustrated' over oil rig report

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Union leaders representing victims of the Piper Alpha disaster said yesterday that they were becoming "extremely frustrated" because of their failure to obtain a copy of the secret report into an explosion on the oil platform four years ago.

The TUC wrote more than six weeks ago to Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, who has been charged with holding the in-

quiry into the disaster which cost 167 lives, asking him to release the report produced by the Department of Energy to enable it to prepare its evidence.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said he had no objection to the release of the report into the blast, during which four people were injured and 175 evacuated, if Lord Cullen, a

senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, also agreed. However, last night, Mr Roger Lyons, deputy general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, which has retained a QC to represent its members at the inquiry, said: "In spite of writing to Lord Cullen we have received no reply."

"We have still no idea when the inquiry will be held or

what its exact terms of reference will be. Obviously, we can't prepare proper evidence until our own experts receive the report and have time to study it. We are becoming extremely frustrated."

"We want to know whether the owners, Occidental, acted on that report and carried out any recommendations. We want to know whether lives could have been saved."



NOTICE TO ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS OF Pilgrim House Group plc

Open Offer to ordinary shareholders in connection with the proposed acquisition of Kidde Fire Protection Group

SPECIAL RECEIVING ARRANGEMENTS

On 1st September, 1988 a circular was sent to shareholders containing details of the proposed acquisition of Kidde Fire Protection Group and the Open Offer. The circular, which comprised listing particulars relating to Pilgrim House Group plc, also contained notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 26th September, 1988 at Pilgrim House, High Street, Billerica, Essex to approve the acquisition.

In connection with the acquisition, Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited is making a conditional Open Offer to ordinary shareholders of 24,896,180 new ordinary shares of 25p each, at 171p per share, on the basis of one new ordinary share for every five existing ordinary shares held at the close of business on 24th August, 1988.

Application forms (which are personal to shareholders of Pilgrim House Group plc) together with the appropriate

remittance in respect of the Open Offer must be received at Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, New Issue Department, 72 London Wall, London EC2M 5NL by no later than 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd September, 1988. Completed proxy cards in respect of the resolutions to be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting must be lodged with the Company's Registrars by no later than 10.00 a.m., on Saturday, 24th September, 1988.

Shareholders who, because of the postal strike, are unable to ensure the arrival of their completed application forms at the above address may instead lodge them together with the appropriate remittances at any of the following branches of National Westminster Bank PLC, by no later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 20th September, 1988.

BIRMINGHAM CITY OFFICE Colmore Centre 103 Colmore Row	EXETER 59 High Street	LIVERPOOL CITY CENTRE 22 Castle Street	NORWICH CITY OFFICE 45 London Street
BRISTOL CITY OFFICE 32 Corn Street	IPSWICH 2 Tavern Street	LONDON EC2 15 Bishopsgate	OXFORD 121 High Street
BRIGHTON 137 North Street	GLASGOW 14 Blythswood Square	LONDON W1 208 Piccadilly	PLYMOUTH 14 Old Town Street
CARDIFF 96 Queen Street	GLOUCESTER 3 Westgate Street	MANCHESTER CITY OFFICE 55 King Street	SOUTHAMPTON 129 High Street
EDINBURGH 80 George Street	LEEDS CITY OFFICE 8 Park Row	NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE 24 Mosley Street	YORK 14 Cony Street

Shareholders who have not received a circular or application form may inspect copies at any of the branches shown. Such shareholders may apply under the Open Offer by executing a power of attorney (in the form available from these branches) authorising a director of Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited to complete an application form on their behalf. Such power of attorney should be deposited at any of the relevant branches, together with the appropriate remittance for the number of shares for which application is made by no later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 20th September, 1988. Proxy cards may also be obtained from any of these branches for completion by shareholders and deposited there by the same time or lodged at the office of Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited already detailed by no later than 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd September, 1988. Ordinary shareholders may apply for any whole

number of new ordinary shares at 171p per share up to their maximum entitlement of one new ordinary share for every five ordinary shares held at the close of business on 24th August, 1988.

Shareholders who are in any doubt as to their entitlement or who are unable to reach any of the bank branches detailed herein should ring Mr. D.C. Williams at Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, New Issue Department on 01 588 4545 Ext. 2295.

Application forms, proxy cards and remittances are lodged at shareholders' own risk.

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Dukakis adopts a Rambo image to outflank Bush

From Charles Bremner, Chicago

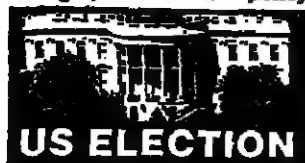
Striking a tough new stance towards Moscow, Governor Michael Dukakis, Democratic presidential candidate, yesterday promised to challenge the Kremlin to free Eastern Europe and respect human rights as the price of membership in the world community.

"Mr Gorbachov is a Leninist. He has not abandoned Soviet goals, but rather seeks to advance those goals through different means," he said in a policy speech aimed at deflecting Republican charges that he is naive in world affairs.

Under a Dukakis presidency, America would seize back the initiative and "translate Soviet economic weakness into improved Soviet behaviour in world affairs. We must be ready to meet stubbornness with determination, deception with the truth, and aggression with the full power of a strong and united democratic alliance."

To ram home his Rambo image yesterday, Mr Dukakis flew straight to the Michigan factory that makes the M1 battle tank and posed for pictures in the turret.

Briefing the press, Mr Du-



adviser. "He's realistic about them and we're not going to do them any favours."

The Dukakis aides said the difference between his strategy and that of Mr George Bush was that the Republican was content to "build weapons systems that we don't need" and then react to Soviet behaviour, while the governor planned to take the initiative with non-military "levers".

Mr Dukakis said that Soviet deeds had yet to match the

conciliatory words of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov. East Europe provided the biggest test of the Kremlin's intentions, he said.

"We must constantly remind the Soviets of the regional conflict they created in Eastern Europe: a conflict that has resulted in totalitarian rule over six proud nations for more than 40 years. We have heard the propaganda, but we know the facts. The nations of Eastern Europe are police states."

A Dukakis administration would also demand respect for human rights inside the Soviet Union. "The symbols of tragedy and betrayal echo through the decades like the tolling of funeral bells: Berlin, Hungary, Prague, Afghanistan, Poland, the Gulag, Sakharovs and Shcharnsky and Solzhenitsyns."

Mr Dukakis said he would seek arms reduction in the nuclear and conventional fields, but would "reaffirm our willingness to respond to force with force in defence of our vital interests around the world". He would also demand that Mr Gorbachov cease exporting systems such

as ballistic missiles to Syria and other allies and seek co-operation to cool regional conflicts, such as those in Central America.

The governor's words to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations were a far cry from the world view he sketched earlier in the election campaign. His earlier calls on America to respect international laws and his emphasis on regional conflicts all gave ammunition to the Bush allegations of naivety.

This week the governor is out to show he knows that the world is a dangerous place. With the idealism fading and realism gaining, he has borrowed Republican rhetoric, promising to restore American power in the world.

Mr Bush, he said yesterday, was not man enough to face Mr Gorbachov, despite his long experience in foreign affairs.

"If he couldn't stand up to the Ayatollah or say No to Noriega, how will he measure up to Gorbachov?" Senator Dan Quayle, the Republicans' vice-presidential choice, he suggested, would be eaten alive by the Soviet leader.

Bonn pledges help on hostages

From Tony Catterall, Bonn

The West German Government expressed itself "overjoyed" yesterday at the release by Lebanese terrorists of Herr Rudolf Cordes, aged 53, after he had been held hostage for 605 days.

And the Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, said after a Cabinet meeting that West Germany would use "all its possibilities" to achieve the rapid release of other Western hostages in Beirut.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, said no ransom had been paid, nor had Bonn agreed to any conditions of the kidnappers, who had not demanded anything for setting Herr Cordes free.

That puzzles observers, particularly as the release came in the middle of the trial in Frankfurt of Muhammad Ali Hamadei on charges of air piracy and murder, in connection with the hijacking three years ago of a TWA airliner.

Herr Cordes and another West German, Herr Alfred Schmidt, were kidnapped in Beirut in January last year, shortly after Hamadei's arrest at Frankfurt airport, to prevent his extradition to the United States. Herr Schmidt was released a year ago, after Bonn refused the extradition request.

Hopes of freedom for Herr Cordes began to rise in June, when Iran asked West Germany for help in ensuring the United Nations Security Council debate on the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus by the US Navy at the beginning of the month would have "positive results".

The Iranian Ambassador to Bonn, Mr Mehdi Hahary Mostafavi, flew to Herr Genscher's Greek holiday island with a letter from Tehran.

His subsequent diplomatic efforts are said to have "greatly contributed" to Iran's finding a face-saving way of accepting the UN ceasefire resolution in the Gulf War.

From that time, negotiations on freeing Herr Cordes were taken over by Mr Muhammad Javad Larjani, the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister.

Herr Genscher said yesterday that Mr Larjani had told him during a visit to Frankfurt on August 15 that a "positive decision" had been



The freed Herr Rudolf Cordes and his wife, Mariene, at the Foreign Ministry in Damascus.

taken. A date would be named "within the next few days". On August 24 he told Herr Cordes would be freed on September 12. "That became the best-kept secret in Bonn," Herr Genscher said.

Herr Cordes was freed late on Monday night, Beirut time. He telephoned the police and was taken to the home of Mr Abdullah el-Rassi, the Lebanese Interior Minister.

Later, Herr Cordes was taken to Damascus under heavy guard by Syrian troops, and delivered to the home of a West German Embassy official, where he "just wanted to sleep".

Yesterday morning an aircraft from the West German Luftwaffe's VIP fleet took off for Damascus from Cologne-Bonn airport.

On board were Frau Mariene Cordes, Herr Wolfgang Schäuble, the head of staff in the Chancellery, and a number of other officials. A spokesman for the employers of Herr Cordes, Hoechst chemicals in Frankfurt, said he expected the former manager of the Middle East branch would "want to take a long holiday with his wife".

Although Herr Cordes is free, the Government yes-

terday renewed its warning to its citizens not to visit Beirut.

His kidnappers said on Monday they had not forgotten the "holy warrior", Hamadei. The hijacking to which he has confessed achieved the release of about 700 Lebanese Shias held by Israel.

● BEIRUT: Mr Abdel Ossiran, Lebanon's Muslim Defence Minister, was briefly taken hostage yesterday by Christian gunmen apparently demanding the "release" of a Christian politician who is allegedly in custody in the Muslim sector (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Republicans shrug off ethnic row

From Michael Binyon, Chicago

The Bush campaign was confident yesterday that the swift resignation of five members of his ethnic advisory committee, amid charges of links to anti-Semitism, will cause little damage to the campaign or dent the Vice-President's increasing confidence as he stumps the country.

The five men, mostly of East European origin and said to have held pro-fascist sentiments, quit the Coalition of American Nationalities on Monday, saying they had been unfairly attacked by Mr Bush's political opponents, but did not want to hurt him.

Campaign staff said the charges were unsubstantiated and appeared to be politically inspired. Mr Bush, refusing to be drawn on the issue, called the affair "a peculiar deal"

which he did not like one bit. The resignations, and that of one other East European, bring to eight the number of men who left amid charges of anti-Semitism.

Last week one ethnic adviser was dismissed, and on Sunday Mr Frederic Malek resigned from the Republican National Committee after disclosures that he compiled a list of Jews in a government agency at President Nixon's request in 1971. He was not connected with the ethnic coalition issue.

Ethnic politics are a minefield in the US, and any taint of anti-Semitism can lead to immediate political death. But the Bush campaign does not depend on the ethnic vote as the Democrats do, so any repercussions are unlikely

to be serious. Instead, Mr Bush is focusing on the large Hispanic vote, which is crucial in two of the three states considered keys to the election: Texas and California.

Both may swing either way, and in both Mr Bush intends to bring a message of economic prosperity to show how minorities, especially Hispanics, have benefited from the record-breaking run of economic growth under the Reagan Administration.

The third crucial state is Illinois, and Mr Bush spent much of yesterday and Monday campaigning here.

He addressed a noisy rally in the southern part of the state on a warm Monday evening, pumping out his standard attack on Governor Michael Dukakis with increas-

ing confidence and tough oratory. He rebutted the Massachusetts governor's accusation of McCarthyism by accusing Mr Dukakis of being a "card-carrying member" of the American Civil Liberties Union.

In a bizarre but effective non sequitur, he added: "I am not a member of the ACLU. I am one of the people. I am the Vice-President of the United States, a member of the Administration." The impudent sneer on the ACLU was effectively reinforced.

Yesterday Mr Bush backed his message of economic growth with an address on the economy to Chicago businessmen. He then went on for another rally in Jefferson City, Missouri and then to California, a state he must win.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Detainees refuge at US mission

Johannesburg (AP) — Three of the most prominent activists detained under South Africa's state-of-emergency regulations escaped from an unnamed hospital here and took refuge yesterday in the United States Consulate, police said.

The three have asked to meet Mr Edward Perkins, the US Ambassador. Two are senior officials of the banned National Democratic Front: Mr Murphy Morobe, the publicity secretary, a black; and Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, the acting general secretary, an Indian. The other is Mr Vusi Khanyile, a black who was chairman of the banned National Education Crisis Committee. They had been in Diepkloof prison since 1986.

Front bench sacking

Sydney — Senator John Stone, who refused to retract comments that a future Liberal-National Party government would reduce Asian immigration, has been sacked as shadow finance spokesman (Christopher Morris writes).

Mr John Howard, the Opposition leader, said: "I have been exceedingly patient. This is all about Shadow Cabinet discipline and team work." The sacking allows the senator to speak freely on immigration from the back benches during the state election campaign in Victoria. The dismissal came as official figures showed that the number of Asian-born Australian residents had increased by 57 per cent over the past six years to make them 3.7 per cent of the 16 million population.

Swiss drugs cash pact

Geneva — Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and Mrs Elisabeth Kopp, the Swiss Minister of Justice and Police, agreed in principle yesterday to tighten co-operation between their two countries on tracing and impounding drug-trafficking money being laundered through their banks and investment houses (Alan McGregor writes). From next year, judiciary orders issued in either country on seizure of such funds will apply in both.

Chile TV appeal cut

Santiago — The access of opposition parties to television was limited on Monday when a 15-minute programme urging Chileans to vote "no" in the plebiscite was censored by the National Television Council (Lake Sagaris writes).

The programme included an interview with Mr Justice Rene Garcia, who has been investigating more than 30 reports of torture committed by Chilean secret police, the CNI. Justice Garcia has received death threats since he said last year that his work had confirmed that torture existed in Chile. A radio station here reported that the plebiscite of the Supreme Court met on Monday to warn him that his career would be seriously harmed if the interview were aired.

Ill Papandreou poser

Athens — The prolonged absence from Greece of Mr Andreas Papandreou, the ailing Greek Prime Minister, is creating a power vacuum, according to the opposition which urged the Government yesterday to end it promptly by following the procedures laid down in the Constitution (Maria Modiano writes).

Mr Papandreou, aged 69, has been undergoing treatment in London hospitals for the past 20 days in preparation for a heart operation, but he refuses to name a deputy to stand in for him until he gets well. New Democracy, the conservative main opposition party, which had so far refrained from making this a political issue, voiced concern yesterday that the country had been left virtually without government.

Haiti massacre boast

Port-au-Prince (AP) — Five men and a woman boasted on Haitian government television that they participated in a church massacre that was "child's play" and threatened "a heap of corpses" if the church's pastor continued his anti-government preaching.

The six, who did not identify themselves but appeared undisguised, said the attack on Sunday, in which six worshippers died and 77 were injured, was aimed at the Rev Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the church's radical Roman Catholic pastor, who escaped and went into hiding.

Iraq challenges Foreign Office on war gas proof

By Nicholas Beeston

Iraq yesterday challenged the Foreign Office to produce the "compelling" evidence it had claimed showed that chemical weapons had been used against Iraqi Kurds and said that it would block a British-led initiative to send United Nations investigators to the region.

At a press conference the Iraqi Ambassador to London, Dr Mohammed al-Mashat, reacted angrily to what he called British interference in Iraqi internal affairs and also complained that the police were not giving his staff adequate protection.

On Monday the Foreign Office announced that it had "compelling evidence" that Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against Kurdish civilians, but Dr al-Mashat said: "Let them produce this evidence. I challenge them. Where is this compelling evidence?"

He denied that chemical weapons had been used and said he believed the Foreign Office had been pressured into making the announcement because of the wide media coverage of the Kurdish refugees fleeing into Turkey.

Last week the Foreign Office called in Dr al-Mashat to register its concern over the allegations of use of chemical weapons and on Monday the British representative at the United Nations, Sir Crispin Tickell, asked the UN Sec-

retary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, to send an independent team to northern Iraq to investigate the claims under the provisions of UN Resolution 620.

But yesterday the Iraqi envoy stated categorically that no foreign investigators would be allowed into the country as "a matter of principle", although Baghdad was inviting foreign journalists to report from the area.

● WASHINGTON: The United States, Britain, West Germany and Japan have all asked the UN Secretary-General to send a team to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons by Iraq against the Kurdish community.

● GENEVA: The Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers yesterday accepted an invitation from the UN Secretary-General to meet him at UN headquarters in New York on September 22 (Alan McGregor writes).

Their talks will be concerned with breaking the deadlock over their conflicting claims to sovereignty in the Shatt al-Arab and the Strait of Hormuz. The issue has blocked the peace negotiations since they began here on August 25.

According to the acting UN mediator, Mr Jan Eliasson of Sweden, the plan is that after the New York meeting the negotiations will be continued

in Geneva. No date has yet been set for the Geneva talks.

The ministers are now returning to their respective capitals for what Mr Eliasson hopes will be "a period of reflection" before setting off for New York.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz had nothing to say to reporters as he and his delegation left the Palais des Nations after a 30-minute plenary session. His Iranian counterpart, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, stayed on for two more hours, talking to the mediator.

On leaving he accused Iraq of introducing further preconditions regarding the first step in implementing the UN ceasefire resolution. This requires the withdrawal of the opposing forces to the international frontier, opening the way for an exchange of the 80,000 prisoners of war, 50,000 of them Iraqis.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said 72 disabled, sick and elderly Iraqi prisoners were flown from Tehran to Baghdad yesterday as "the result of a unilateral decision by the Iranian authorities, not connected with the global repatriation of all prisoners which the ICRC hopes to see take place shortly".

At a press conference, Mr Eliasson admitted that the sovereignty deadlock remained unbroken.

Malta leader set to woo Britain over EEC entry

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

There were times in the past 16 years when hearts in Whitehall sank at the thought of receiving a visitor from Valletta. Anglo-Maltese harmony was as rare as sunflowers in Whitehall when Mr Dom Mintoff was in power.

Mr Eddie Fenech Adami hopes to strike up a much more cordial relationship when he arrives today for his first official visit since his election in May last year. In an interview with *The Times*, he said: "I think my visit should establish a new relationship".

He recognized that there was a lot of ground to be made up. Mr Mintoff's foreign policy was, he said, "extremely unstable".

"I think that the fact that Malta wavered so much in the past 16 years was something that was looked on by West European countries with considerable concern. We started off with great handicaps, because the perception of Malta's image was extremely bad. I think that in the 15 months we have been in office that has drastically changed."

"No one was more worried than my party during the past 16 years because of the gradual erosion of democratic principles in Malta. I don't think one can blame the Maltese people for what happened. It was mistaken policies by the Socialist Party."

Mrs Thatcher knows Dr

Fenech Adami fairly well, and while they cannot be called close she probably appreciates his commitment to Western values. Dr Fenech Adami made it clear to *The Times* that, while he had no intention of trying to change Malta's neutral and non-aligned status, he would interpret it differently from the previous government.

"The Constitution provides that Malta cannot host any

foreign military base and Malta cannot form part of a military alliance. It does not mean that Malta cannot take a stand which is for democracy, and therefore very much pro-West," he said.

Mrs Thatcher will like the sound of this. But however much she may want to improve the relationship, the chances are that they will disagree on

the EEC. Dr Fenech Adami wants her to endorse the application for Malta's accession to the Community, which he plans to make soon. It will be a serious blow if she declines. But Whitehall sources made it clear the Government is unenthusiastic and sees his request as an exaggerated demand.

If Malta could have just the economic benefits there would be no objection. But it is smaller than the Isle of Wight, with a population of 340,000. Its accession would give it a seat at the Council of Ministers and European summits.

That might pose no problem with Dr Fenech Adami in power, but if the socialists returned to office with Mr Mintoff still acting as *de facto* prime minister, they could prove a disruptive force. Whitehall would be happier with an extension of Malta's association agreement, which has proved highly effective: already 70 per cent of Maltese trade in both directions is with the Twelve.

But in the interview Dr Fenech Adami was adamant that he expected an endorsement for full membership.

He said that the aims of the application were political rather than economic, since Malta's commercial links were already strong. Allowing Malta to join the EEC would do much to reinforce the pro-Western policy.

Four Israeli left-wingers were jailed under the new law earlier this year after meeting PLO officials in Romania about a year ago.

Professor Yuval Neeman, a leader of the ultra-nationalist Tefiya party here, called yesterday for Mr Nathan's arrest and trial for treason when he returned to Israel.

Arafat asks Europe to get cash to West Bank

From Richard Owen, Strasbourg

In his first public policy move since King Hussein of Jordan renounced formal jurisdiction over the occupied West Bank at the end of July, Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, appealed yesterday to the European Community to help the PLO to channel funds to West Bank officials previously under Jordanian administration.

Mr Arafat told Euro-MPs that the PLO took "full responsibility" for West Bank Palestinians, and sought an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, with elections held under UN auspices. Mr Arafat said he was prepared to "take a year off" to organize such elections.

But in remarks to the Socialist group of the European Parliament, which invited him to Strasbourg, Mr Arafat held back from declaring a provisional Palestinian government-in-exile in the wake of King Hussein's move. PLO officials said the Palestine National Council still had to consider the matter at a meeting in Algiers in the autumn.

Mr Arafat, whose visit to the European Parliament is opposed by

pro-Israeli Euro-MPs, said he had been "taken by surprise" by King Hussein's sudden move six weeks ago, according to Socialist Euro-MPs who attended the meeting. Mr Arafat told them the PLO had already tried to send some money to West Bank civil servants but was encountering "continuing difficulties" in the Middle East.

A crowd of Jewish and pro-Israeli demonstrators estimated by police at more than 1,000, chanted anti-PLO slogans and accused Mr Arafat of being a terrorist as he arrived at the Parliament building amid heavy security measures. Mr John Marshall, Conservative Euro-MP for London North, shouted "murderer" at the PLO leader. He subsequently explained that in his view "Mr Arafat and his friends have murdered a lot of people over the years. You only have to remember what happened at the Olympics in 1972".

But Mr Peter Price, Conservative Euro-MP for London South-East, said the PLO had engaged only in a "mini-scale" of official terrorism, and said that the Palestinian right to self-determination had been acknowledged repeatedly by the EEC.

Conservative and Christian Democrat groups have boycotted Mr Arafat's visit, which ends today, although individual Euro-MPs from the centre-right bloc are meeting the PLO leader. Mr Arafat said yesterday that he hoped Europe would help to "promote the cause of the Palestinians" and ensure a "just peace" in the Middle East.

● PARIS: Although M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, will meet Mr Arafat on French soil after all, the Quai d'Orsay has redoubled efforts to convince commentators that the meeting in Strasbourg does not represent the first occasion on which the PLO has been officially received in France (Philip Jacobson writes).

For the purposes of this exercise, Foreign Office mandarins insist, Strasbourg should be regarded as "international territory" and the European Parliament gathering which Mr Arafat addressed as strictly "extra-territorial". With such fancy footwork, it is thus possible to maintain the fiction that the PLO has never yet been invited to France by the Government (though M Dumas and Mr Arafat

had already met in Tunis in 1985, when the former was a minister in the previous Socialist government and President Mitterrand has received a senior PLO official as part of an Arab League delegation).

This awkward compromise was hammered out after three days of discussions in Paris between the Quai d'Orsay and a senior figure from the PLO.

Meanwhile, the French Socialist Party is still suffering a degree of internal fall-out from the Arafat visit. Although its executive committee finally decided that it should go along with the European socialist line that the Strasbourg visit is a step in the right direction, there has been persistent rumbling from a faction that remains opposed to extending any welcome to the PLO before it settles the recognition issue.

● JERUSALEM: Israel's best-known peace crusader, Mr Abie Nathan, claimed yesterday that he had met Mr Arafat in Tunis on Monday night (David Bernstein writes).

In a telephone interview from Tunis with Israel radio's correspondent in Washington, Mr Nathan

said they discussed a peace proposal. The plan was based on a declaration of mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO and a public undertaking by the PLO to halt all violence for 100 days. This included the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said the PLO leader had promised to consider the plan when he returned from Strasbourg.

The last Israeli known to have met Mr Arafat was Mr Uri Avineri, the left-wing journalist and former Knesset member, who interviewed the PLO leader in his west Beirut hideout at the height of Israel's siege of the city in 1982.

That meeting provoked a public outcry here and led to legislation that makes any meeting by Israelis with PLO members a criminal offence.

Four Israeli left-wingers were jailed under the new law earlier this year after meeting PLO officials in Romania about a year ago.

Professor Yuval Neeman, a leader of the ultra-nationalist Tefiya party here, called yesterday for Mr Nathan's arrest and trial for treason when he returned to Israel.

Japanese lift North Korea sanctions on eve of Olympics

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Amid fresh fears that Japanese Red Army terrorists have both the will and the means to launch an attack against the Olympic Games, opening in Seoul at the weekend, Japan yesterday announced that it would lift the sanctions it imposed against North Korea last January.

The decision to lift diplomatic and trade restrictions the day before the Olympic Games opens officially reflects Tokyo's desire to relax tensions in the Korean peninsula as a result of the North's resolve to boycott the Games.

The sanctions were imposed by Japan to punish North Korea for its alleged responsibility for the loss of a South Korean airliner off Burma last November.

But observers of South-East Asian backroom deals believe that Tokyo's step was accelerated by signs that Pyongyang is ready to release two Japanese fishermen who have been held in North Korea since December, 1983, for alleged spying.

The two seamen, Mr Isamu Beniko, captain of the Japanese freighter No. 18 Fujisan Maru, and the ship's chief engineer, Mr Yoshio Kuriwa, were arrested when their

freighter returned to North Korea two months after a defecting North Korean soldier had stowed away on board.

Mr Keizo Obuchi, chief spokesman for the Japanese Government, said last night that the release of the two seamen, who are serving prison sentences of 15 years' hard labour, was not directly linked with the possible lifting of the sanctions.

But he understood that North Korea was ready to hold government-level talks on the matter, and that Japan could start negotiations only after dialogue was resumed between its diplomats and officials in Pyongyang.

Mr Obuchi said that before making a final decision on the sanctions the Japanese Cabinet was waiting to debrief Mr Tsuruo Yamaguchi, the secretary-general of the opposition Japan Socialist Party, who was returning to Tokyo last night after a week's visit to North Korea. But it is believed that Tokyo unofficially already has conveyed its decision to both Washington and Seoul.

Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Japanese Prime Minister, will formally announce the move

to South Korea's President Roh Tae Woo when he visits Seoul on Friday.

Mr Takeshita is likely also to take the opportunity to relay the latest fears of Japan's security authorities that the Japanese Red Army terrorist group may have pocketed 200 million yen (about £870,000) in ransom for a Japanese businessman abducted in Manila two years ago.

One Japanese official said last night that the Japanese Red Army leader, Mr Norio Sasaki, could still be hiding in Manila and preparing for operations against the Seoul Olympics.

The fears about Mr Sasaki come after a series of warnings about the safety of the Games. An official of Japan's National Police Agency said that a band of about 20 Red Army terrorists had left for South Korea from a base in Lebanon during the past few weeks with the express aim of sabotaging the Olympics.

SEOUL: South Korea and Hungary will exchange permanent missions, the Government said yesterday (AP reports). This marks the first time that South Korea has established relations with a communist country.

Return of a face from Russia's past



A portrait of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, murdered after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, being put on display by its painter, Stanislav Kapilov, in Moscow's pedestrian mall of Arbat. Until recently the KGB would have dealt firmly with the artist.

A week in the life of an Italian letter

From Roger Boyes
Rome

A letter posted in Rome stays in its postbox for 3½ days before collection and will probably not be sorted until the following week, according to newly released official statistics which chart the breathtaking inefficiency of the Italian postal service.

Cold comfort for Britain, where a national postal strike has just ended, but the sluggish Italian mail seems to have established some kind of record. Over the past 15 years the number of postal workers in Italy has risen by 60 per cent to 240,000. From 1984 Italy has spent about £50 million on a computer system that can sort 18,000 pieces of mail, directing them to 720 destinations every hour. Yet the high technology and huge workforce have conspired to make postal delivery worse.

The official statistics show that postal service productivity has decreased by 30 per cent since 1980 and the Post Ministry's deficit has swelled to 4,000 billion lire (under £2 billion) from 1976 to 1987.

The collapse in efficiency is shaking even Italians who are otherwise inured to a haphazard system. Postbox collections in Rome and Milan occurred every 3½ days and every two days in Florence, Naples and Bari.

A letter posted on Monday will thus be picked up on Wednesday. If you are lucky it will be sorted before Friday. If not it will have to wait until the following Monday. Then the trips by train to various destinations in Italy usually last six to seven working days.

That is the average for the Milan-Rome route. It is much worse if the letter travels from one small town to another. Then the transport can take between eight and 15 days. A letter from Milan to Sardinia takes on average 19.9 days.

"When I participate in international conventions, I feel ashamed," confessed Dr Enrico Veschi, the director of the Central Postal Service. In Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland and Denmark 80 to 90 per cent of national correspondence takes only 24 hours to arrive.

Two problems underpin the rapid breakdown. The first is that postal workers over the past 10 years have succeeded in drastically reducing working hours, increasing their pay and forcing the ministry to swell their numbers. It is estimated that the average postal worker puts in only 50 per cent of the hours stipulated by his work contract.

According to official assessments, out of the 1,599 yearly work hours stipulated under the labour contract, telegram workers put in only 295 and letter sorters only 721. There is also a large imbalance between north and south. Too many postal workers are concentrated in the north to bring down unemployment levels.

Second, hiring and promotion is largely in the control of the trade unions. The postal service manpower is a cake of political patronage divided between the Christian Democrat-dominated CISL union and the ministry. The result is a serious weakening of management, which has not been able to balance technology with staff levels.

Old-style Ukrainian leaders exploit a KGB 'triumph'

By A Special Correspondent

The Soviet media have been claiming an important success this week for the KGB — the infiltration of the largest émigré Ukrainian nationalist organization and the neutralization of its "subversive" activities against the Soviet Union.

The first details about this operation, codenamed "Boomerang", were provided in a lengthy interview with a KGB colonel in *Monday's Pravda*. More information is expected to emerge at a special press conference being held today in Kiev.

Revelations of this sort about the triumphs of the KGB in thwarting the activities of Ukrainian and other émigré organizations are not that unusual. What is intriguing about the Boomerang affair, though, is the timing of the disclosures. Why should the KGB suddenly blow the cover from an

operation which it claims to have run successfully with the help of Polish intelligence for 20 years?

And, at a time of *glasnost* and restructuring, does not this well-publicized denunciation of the "agents" of capitalism and imperialism sound more like something from the discredited past?

It should be remembered, however, that the Ukraine is still under the control of the team led by Mr Volodymyr Shcherbitsky, who was installed by Leonid Brezhnev in the early 1970s, and that the republic's leadership remains a bastion of conservative resistance to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

Add to this the perennial fear which Moscow has of Ukrainian nationalism — the Ukrainians are by far the largest of the Soviet Union's non-Russian nations — and the KGB's desire to show it is

still indispensable and the explanation becomes less problematic.

In fact, recent developments in Ukraine have been giving both the authorities in Kiev and the KGB a headache. While Western attention has been focused on developments in Armenia and the Baltic republics, trouble has also been brewing in this large, strategically located and economically vital republic.

Since June there have been several unofficial mass public meetings in the western Ukrainian city of Lvov, the biggest of which on June 21 attracted 30,000 people. As in the Baltic republics, Ukrainian activists have linked their demands to slogans in support of the Gorbachev line, making it more difficult for the Soviet authorities to clamp down.

Nevertheless, determined to prevent the emergence of mass national movements as in Armenia

and Estonia, the Ukrainian authorities have taken firm action. On August 4, and again on September 1, riot policemen broke up large unauthorized gatherings in Lvov.

Tough measures have also been taken against the outlawed Ukrainian Catholic Church whose members had hoped that the Soviet authorities would legalize their "catacomb" church.

It has been just as difficult for the Shcherbitsky leadership to muzzle the Ukrainian intelligentsia. Ukrainian writers, inspired by their colleagues in other parts of the Soviet Union, are displaying a remarkable degree of national assertiveness.

They are calling for an end to "russification" in Ukraine and the removal of "blank spots" in their nation's history as the truth emerges about Stalin's man-made

famine of 1933 and about the nationalist resistance to Soviet rule after the Second World War. As in Estonia, they also want their national language to be made a state language in their republic.

What is probably even more worrying for the Shcherbitsky leadership, though, are the recent expressions of frustration voiced by leading Ukrainian writers with the lack of "restructuring" in Ukraine and their implicit calls for Mr Shcherbitsky to give up his leadership of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

There is one other important factor which may help to explain why Operation Boomerang was revealed this week and why the Polish authorities were also involved. Last October the Pope engineered a historic reconciliation in Rome between the hierarchies of the Polish and Ukrainian Catholic

churches. A direct result was the invitation by the Polish Primate, Cardinal Glemp, to his Ukrainian counterpart, Cardinal Lyubachivsky, to come to Poland's holiest place — the Marian shrine in Czestochowa — to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of the christianization of the territory which forms present-day Ukraine.

In order to deflect attention from the ceremonies at Czestochowa and the Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation which they symbolized, what better than to play up a supposedly joint triumph of the Soviet and Polish security services?

Thus, what seems to be behind this week's revelations about Operation Boomerang is a "stagnant" regime in Kiev anxious to justify its "regressive" policies, and a KGB leadership eager as always to emphasize the importance of its organization's role.

Sunken freighter crew is rescued

Amsterdam (AP) — All nine crew of the Ra, a Finnish-registered freighter carrying beer, were rescued from liferafts after it sank in the North Sea off the northern Dutch coast, a Coast Guard spokesman said. It was not clear what had caused the sinking 29 miles off the Dutch island of Ameland. The crew was taken 30 miles to the island of Borkum by a West German helicopter.

The spokesman denied earlier reports that the ship was a Dutch passenger ferry on the busy routes between coastal islands and the mainland.

Air show toll

Münster (AP) — The death toll from the Ramstein air show disaster on August 28 climbed to 61 when a West German man, aged 43, died of his injuries. At least 14 victims are in critical condition at hospitals in West Germany.

River bus dive

Embudo, New Mexico (AP) — At least six people were killed and 14 injured when a Greyhound bus plunged into the Rio Embudo, 45 miles north of Santa Fe, late on Monday, police said.

Box found

Bangkok (AFP) — A flight data recorder found near the crash site of a Vietnam Air Tupolev-134 aircraft in which 76 people died was to be sent to the Soviet Union for checks, a senior Thai Air Force officer said.

Composer shot

Nashville (AP) — Barry Sadler, who composed the hit song *Ballad of the Green Berets*, was critical but stable in hospital here after being shot in the head in Guatemala, his agent said.

Nato oil spill

Bodo (AP) — The USS Boulder landing craft ran aground off central Norway during a Nato exercise, spilling more than 1,000 gallons of diesel oil into the Norwegian Sea, the Allied Press and Information Centre said.

Albanian visit

Bonn (AFP) — West Germany welcomed Mr Reis Malie, the Albanian Foreign Minister, on his first official visit to the West since Albania began opening up in 1985 after decades of virtual isolation.

Foreign aid vital as Kampala emerges slowly from its long nightmare

Uganda forced to swallow bitter IMF medicine

From Our Diplomatic Correspondent, Kampala

A British diplomat in Kampala woke one morning to find that the security fence round his house had been cut and that his anti-burglar floodlights had been stolen. The following night the same happened at the home of another British envoy.

A week later the first diplomat's home received a second visit with identical results. Then someone emptied a whole magazine of AK47 ammunition outside his house.

Anywhere else these would have been disturbing portents, but in Kampala it meant paradoxically that the security situation was improving. The fact that only the lamps were taken, the houses were not

burgled, and the AK47 was fired into the air were seen as encouraging signs.

After 20 years of almost continuous civil war, Uganda is beginning to emerge from its long nightmare, with no significant fighting anywhere in the country.

Guerrilla forces in the north, including elements of the Uganda People's Liberation Army loyal to Dr Milton Obote, the former President, have reached an agreement with the Government that appears to be holding. The sound of gunfire is no longer the nightly occurrence in Kampala it used to be.

The security improvement has been shadowed by a tentative recovery of govern-



Dr Obote: Government pact with his followers holding, confidence in managing the economy, British diplomats express cautious optimism over the more sensible economic policies followed by Kampala for the past year.

Only the black market is now suffering, with the

"magendo" rate for exchanging foreign currency only two-and-a-half times higher than the official rate, compared with a factor of 10-1 when confidence was lower.

After years of almost routine beatings and shakedowns by troops at roadblocks, the Ugandan people are now in greater danger from Aids than sudden death. Uganda radio regularly broadcasts a message mystifying to foreigners. "Zero grazing," it says without explanation. It is an agricultural analogy, based on the idea that, just as Ugandan farmers keep all their cattle in one area for security, they should stick to one wife.

"Love carefully," a propaganda message now used everywhere in Africa where English is widely understood,

originated in Uganda. It remains the country's hardest hit by Aids, the 5,000 registered cases representing only the tip of a vast iceberg.

But while life is generally improving, the economic recovery remains extremely fragile and dependent on foreign aid. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who arrived yesterday for talks with President Museveni, made it clear that Britain was prepared to continue helping to prop up the economy, but only so long as Kampala follows the recovery programme set by the International Monetary Fund.

Its performance is under scrutiny this week at an IMF meeting in Washington. If Uganda is found to have swallowed the IMF's harsh

medicine, large amounts of further aid will be released.

The IMF decision, which British officials expect to be favourable, will have a huge impact on British policy.

Last year Britain pledged £25 million to Uganda, but released only £15 million at first. The rest was held back pending Uganda's performance under IMF guidelines and will be released if the Washington decision gives the green light.

British officials say Uganda has followed all the recommendations of the IMF to some degree, but few fully. One of the big unmet promises is the failure fully to restructure the Civil Service, raising salaries to attract competent middle managers.

Letter from Khartoum

Fond memories of spiders on the ceiling and scorpions in the bath

Words written 58 years ago by Odette Keun in her book, *A Foreigner Looks At The Sudan*, have proved to be prophetic. "No one can guess what will become of the Sudan," she wrote. "This fine British effort may come to destruction and nothingness. There may be... a withdrawal of the British... and if the withdrawal is premature, catastrophe and retrogression."

Her words came to mind when I returned this week to Khartoum, the scene of some of my most enchanted childhood memories.

She wrote long before my time, but her observation that Sudan's prosperity was just as true when my father arrived in 1937, and it remained so up to independence in 1956.

However foolish and ill-motivated we may have been as a nation to have seized Sudan in 1898, the *Par Britannica* which followed was a golden era for the Sudanese.

With the benefit of 32 years of hindsight, one can see that it was not just the British who surpassed themselves. The Sudan Political Service acted as a catalyst to bring out the best in the Sudanese people. And it was a tiny elite who did so.

In the entire 57 years of British rule, the total British

element of the SPS was only 393 people, of whom 185 were educated at Oxford, or Cambridge, according to Rosemary Kenrick in her book *Sudan Tales*.

As Miss Keun predicted, the timing of British withdrawal was the key to everything that happened subsequently. Had we not panicked over minor incidents in the 1950s, Sudan could have been properly prepared for its independence.

Over dinner at the Hilton Hotel (an embarrassing oasis of comfort amid the deprivation of Khartoum), a well-placed Briton said: "Deep down, the older Sudanese still do not understand why we left so suddenly. There is a strong feeling of being let down. When the Minister of Culture made his remark that the British should be ashamed of the amount of aid they sent after the flooding of Khartoum, the Government in London was puzzled because it was so obviously untrue. But what he was trying to express was a feeling that everything which has gone wrong in Sudan since independence is basically British fault."

No one who has not lived in Sudan could understand how the British came to be saddled with so strong a paternalistic role. The affection between the

two peoples had something to do with a British ability to bridge the ethnic divide between the Muslim Arab north and the animist or Christian Nilotic south.

Sudan was considered a hardship post and attracted extraordinary perks, including the right to three months holiday every year. But most Britons secretly enjoyed it, and all were left with a fund of anecdotes.

Mine were pretty commonplace: the python which swallowed a goat in our garden, the fear of sitting on sand toilets because of the horns which made their nests inside, the snakes which got into bed, the scorpions in the bathroom, the spiders on the ceiling, the gentleness and nobility of the fearsome-looking southerners, and the appalling illnesses.

British diplomats who serve there now have a quieter but much less fulfilling life. Some of the physical comforts have improved. The outside sand-bucket toilets, which were collected at night by huge wagons drawn by camels, have given way to flush toilets. International phone calls have ceased to be an outrageous luxury. But most other aspects of life have greatly deteriorated.

The British era had a military precision, a smell of fresh paint, a cleanliness which

extended to polished brass handrails in the carriages of the excellent railway service.

Gone with the wind, Khartoum today is the colour of the muddy brown torrent which rushes past its doorstep. We might never have been sucked into Sudan if a former Foreign Secretary, Lord Granville, had not used gunboat diplomacy to put down a small disturbance at Alexandria in 1881.

More by blunder than design, Britain found itself running Egypt and inherited problems in Sudan. It is often forgotten that General Gordon was carrying out orders to end the Egyptian presence in Sudan when he was killed by the Mahdi.

His death aggravated the muddle, led to Kitchener's offensive, and drew the British into exactly the responsibility they had hoped to avoid.

Sir Geoffrey Howe was still trying to extricate Britain when he visited the Mahdi's great-grandson, Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Prime Minister, in Khartoum on Sunday.

But the more he told him that Sudanese problems were for the Sudanese Government to solve, the less impression he seemed to make.

Like it or not, we are stuck with our past.

Andrew McEwen

Security and trade issues concern Botha in Malawi

Harare (Reuters) — President Botha of South Africa, breaking new ground in his country's relations with black Africa, held talks with the President of Malawi, Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, at Mzuzu in northern Malawi yesterday.

The South African Embassy in Malawi told Reuters by telex that President Botha and his party arrived in Mzuzu by plane yesterday morning after spending the night in the capital, Lilongwe. It said that the two leaders were due to begin talks immediately.

Malawi is the only state in black Africa that has diplomatic relations with Pretoria, but President Botha has not visited the country before. He began his diplomatic tour on Monday in Mozambique, which has long accused him of backing right-wing Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) rebels, whose civil war has devastated the country's economy. President Botha promised President Chissano that Pretoria would not support the MNR.

Malawi is directly affected by the Mozambican war, giving sanctuary to thousands of refugees and suffering the loss of its shortest road and rail links to the sea.

Like South Africa, Dr Banda's Government has been accused by Mozambique of assisting the MNR, although Maputo's complaints on that

score have tapered off in the past two years.

President Chissano told a news conference on Monday that Mr Botha had given him fresh guarantees that the Nkomati accord, a non-aggression pact between South Africa and Mozambique agreed in 1984, would be respected.

Mr Botha's talks with Dr Banda were also expected to focus on security and economic issues, including further South African aid.

GABORONE: The Pope flew to Botswana yesterday, the fourth day of his tour of southern Africa, calling the country an island of peace and praising its concern for victims of apartheid in neighbouring South Africa.

On the flight from Zimbabwe, papal aides disclosed plans for another African trip next year — to include Tanzania and Madagascar, but not South Africa.

At Gaborone airport security broke down when a struggling scrum of photographers, journalists, well-wishers and bare-breasted women dancers surged close to the Pope.

Father Roberto Tucci, who plans papal tours, emerged from the crowd muttering: "What a mess."

Speaking after arriving on the second stage of a five-nation tour, the Pope said: "You have witnessed the

plight of those who are subjected by law to discrimination."

In a clear reference to apartheid in South Africa, he added in an address to Catholic priests and laity in Gaborone: "I gladly support to you your desire to be close to those who are unjustly deprived of their legitimate rights and lack decent living conditions."

Botswana is the main staging post for refugees from South Africa. Relations between the two countries have been severely strained by raids against what Pretoria says are nationalist guerrillas sheltering in Botswana.

In his arrival address, the Pope said that Botswana's stability and economic development were "a ray of hope for people throughout Africa who long for authentic human development."

He said that Botswana was "an island of peace in a troubled sea" and had built remarkable economic and social progress on the basis of democracy and self-reliance.

President Masire told the Pope at the airport: "We hope your visit will help in our reaffirmation of faith in our region, where racial intolerance threatens a conflagration from which there can be no winners."

"In the implementation of the policies of apartheid the oppressor and oppressed are both victims."

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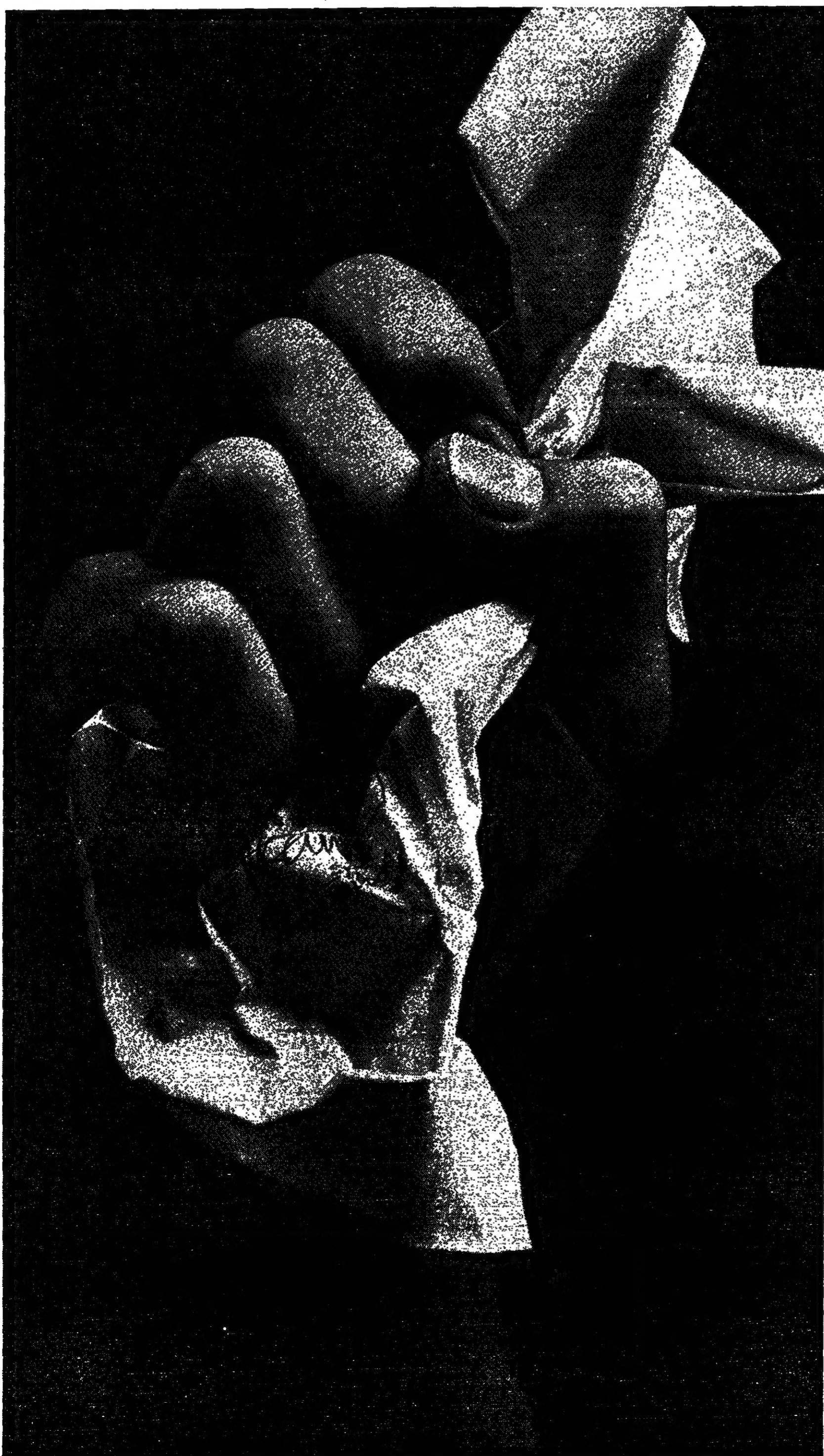
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صندوق البريد

SPECTRUM

It's all a matter of timing

In the influence game, good communication is everything. The time, the level and the place are all crucial. Of these, timing is the most important. If your target is a fool, drunk, jet-lagged, lunching, late for a secret liaison, up against a deadline, or when you have just done him a favour, if he is clever, you must get to him when he is thinking well, not flapping, likely to remember what you have said and ready to take decisions.

By contrast, the successful man or woman never lets opponents find them at a disadvantage. It is here that the art of selecting a good secretary lies: find someone who knows when not to put calls through to you. It is probably the best investment a manipulator can make. A good secretary will recognize when you are firing on all cylinders, having a domestic crisis, need support, need to be left alone, need a stiff whisky, need a haircut or to lose some weight to boost your morale.

There is an additional overriding art to timing which is sometimes known as primacy — the "getting in first" effect. There is nothing to beat it. Strong, favourable arguments put forward at the very beginning, for example, in a debate, are harder to knock down later. It is axiomatic that creating deadlines is a great way to get people to come to conclusions.

Next, carefully choose the right level to operate at. Do not aim too

high. The top man may not be the decision-maker. As a general rule it is better to go for the minister's private secretary than for the minister, though not, of course, if the former is likely to stifle your views. Never put an important case to a vice-president. In-between people are in-between.

This is particularly true in the United States, where those who have outlived their usefulness in any organization are appointed vice-president. The British, with the House of Lords as a model, find meaningless yet impressive-sounding titles — non-executive chairman, consultant editor-in-chief and so on — for their in-house pensioners' rest scheme.

Finally, make sure you choose the right location. Where you make your pitch can be crucial. Consider the following options: in the boardroom, at the club, over a meal at a small corner table, on the fourteenth tee, in the lavatory.

Probably the best general advice is to act on your own territory when possible.

Communication both with words and with body language is all about practising empathy. You speak and act to establish yourself as an authority figure who possesses knowledge, experiences, realism, expertise, self-control, detachment, energy/dynamism, integrity/dependability and ability to get and hold attention. Their perception of you is everything.



INFLUENCE

PART 3

The important rules of communication for you are:

- Always try to influence any constraints and play on any susceptibilities to which the decision-taker is subject. If he likes to laugh, make him laugh.
- Never worry, as Disraeli said, about being "a burglar of other people's intellect". There is no copyright on good (or bad) ideas.
- Always get across the dangers of not following your advice.
- Create a "perceived community of interest" with the decision-taker, stressing any mutual ambitions.
- Go for self-fulfilling prophecies, remembering that in communicating "a little lie sometimes saves a lot of explanation".

Effective communication and selecting the right place are at the heart of the influence game, according to Michael Shea

Communicating in order to influence is, after all, not too different from salesmanship. That is why a business or a political party which wants to sell some commodity or idea to you will choose a person who appears to have integrity to present its case.

The salesman does not have the power to force anyone to make a purchase. He has to get across a description of the product, to build up its appeal so that he does not have to sell it to you as much as you want to buy it from him.

The basic sales argument is, buy this product (or course of action) because: realize it or not, you need it (a new three-piece suit or "Tory Party values"); you cannot do

without it (a life insurance policy or "Labour's social conscience"); you want to keep up with the neighbours (and they all have Porsches and swimming pools and vote for the Alliance); you have got into the habit.

Influence peddling is like selling insurance. You sell yourself, then you sell your product. A degree of honesty is required, since a good salesman wants the customer to come back. He has his eyes on the sale after next. His success rests on his credibility and the passion behind the message: "What will happen to your dependants if one day...?" Even though it costs a great deal, the client will probably buy, through a mix of caution and fear of the consequences of not doing so.

Influence relationships, just like business deals, frequently collapse because information about them leaks out. So when you are communicating with someone you want to influence, don't communicate the fact to the wider world. Influence derives much of its strength from being secret on the detail. If you are good, your reputation will still shine through.

Persuade the decision-taker that the course of action that you want is the right one. This is a very useful approach. I have heard Foreign Office advisers saying to their political master things like: "Your thinking on the SALT talks, Secretary of State, is as follows..." and Alexander Haig insisting: "You should

remember, Mr President, that your stance on Latin America debts is..." In other words: "I, the humble adviser, am merely reminding you of your own views, decisions, policies or whatever." Obsequious, maybe, but effective.

No matter how influential you are, unless you are in close proximity to your decision-taker, you will lose. An adviser in a private office in London, if that is where the action is, will win hands down over a more able one in New York. The position-in-office rule of influence is almost absolute.

An excellent example of this and how immediate accessibility works is where, among the British Prime Minister's private secretaries (whatever party is in office), there is always one appointed from the Foreign Office. This man often has more influence than the rest of the department put together. If he is against some aspect of Foreign Office briefing, then it is within his effective competence to make sure it is ignored.

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Extracted from *Influence: How to Make the System Work for You*, by Michael Shea, published on September 22 (Century, £10.95).

TOMORROW
Devious tactics for winning

BLOCKING MOVES

"One does not find men keen on going to certain death," Machiavelli wrote, and sometimes you will find it necessary to nip a foolhardy proposal in the bud. When I was in the Foreign Office, George Brown came up with a new idea for a British initiative to solve the problems of the Middle East. The distinguished Under-Secretary Anthony (now Sir Anthony) Parsons exclaimed: "My goodness, that would be a very courageous decision for you to take, minister." End of initiative.

Faced with a similar situation, you can resort to one of a number of commonplace (and pre-Yes Minister) phrases that are excellent openers in a blocking move:

- "In present financial circumstances (and I need not detain you with all the detail), Mr Chief Executive, it is impossible to contemplate..."
- "Since it is my duty to warn you of possible threats to your political position, Secretary of State, do you really think it wise..."
- "The rate of unemployment, minister, will not allow..."
- "While we must play our part if economies are to be achieved, as you, Mr Chief Executive, will be first to recognize..."
- "More desperate are the following lines of argument: 'There is a large body of opinion against this...' (and I am part of it)."
- "Future generations will condemn..." or, suggesting your interlocutor may be bent on looking for a new job, "If you are really looking for a new challenge and are not afraid of the consequences..."
- Finally, always beware when others say "there is no alternative" or "this course of action is unavoidable."

Socrates carved in Stone

"Izzy" Stone found his spiritual home with the ancient Greeks. But Catherine Bennett found that he would have shown more mercy than the Athenians

"Why didn't you speak out against the massacre at Meles? Why didn't you go and warn Leon of Salamis that he was going to be murdered, and protest, instead of just going home? Where was the virtue in that?" In the quiet, but crowded lounge of a small London hotel, I.F. Stone, the American journalist, is haranguing Socrates.

The philosopher, dead these 2,387 years, can only repeat through this reporter what Plato wrote in the *Apology*: that he thought it more useful

for him to encourage wisdom and virtue individually, philosophizing with citizens rather than their political institutions, which he mistrusted.

"He had the attitude of a medieval," snaps Stone. "He thought that the way to be virtuous was to withdraw from life and take care of your soul. I mean I'm a journalist, I share the Athenian point of view that a citizen has a duty to take part in the life of the city. Socrates had a right to withdraw, and he was wrong

to be condemned, but what was the virtue of abstaining?" Stone cannot understand it, but he still inclines toward mercy. He would not, like the Athenian jurors of 399 BC, have sentenced Socrates to death. "I feel very badly that they did wrong," he says — and it was this emotion that inspired his book, *The Trial of Socrates*.

After retiring from a career in journalism, which he began in 1922, at the age of 14, and closing down his left-wing, anti-establishment political

periodical *I.F. Stone's Weekly*, "Izzy" Stone had embarked on a study of freedom of thought in history when he found his spiritual home with the ancient Greeks. Now he speaks of them as though they were close friends and political neighbours, more real to him than any of his gaping compatriots in the hotel lounge off Piccadilly.

A friendly, mischievous-looking old man, Stone announces that he would like Pericles for President; he has dropped "BC" from Antic

references, and now speaks casually of "401" and "411", as if they were '87 and '88.

"It's not the past, it's the present," he says. "All they didn't have was atom bombs. I'm an American, I'm a Democrat and I'm in love with Athens." All that clouds his passion is the trial and sentence of Socrates, and his book is a lively, emotive account of how this citizen of free thought could have behaved with such intolerance.

Stone's conclusion, reached after 12 years in which he

taught himself Greek and read all the primary sources through his thick, eye-distorting spectacles and a magnifying glass, is that Athens did behave unworthily — but that its jurors were sorely tried by Socrates's disdain, his suicidal intransigence; his refusal, at the point of sentence, to stomach an appeal to democracy in his own defence; Socrates himself seems to have put the hemlock to his lips.

In his book, Stone maintains this elegant, reflective

distance from the true motives of Socrates; in person, he can scarcely contain his animosity towards a man he plainly considers anti-American in the best, Jeffersonian sense of the word. Socrates had consorted with "aristocratic bastards". He was a snob: "He talks as disdainfully about craftsmen and tradesmen as a British 19th-century aristocrat," says Stone, the self-made son of Russian immigrant shopkeepers.

It might be argued that the contemporary, even the 19th century understanding of what is, or is not "snobbish", is unhelpful in understanding a society which relied on slaves. But Stone has an adamant empathy with his ancient democrat: "Everybody had slaves in the ancient world," he says defensively. "Athens had a very small-scale slave system." Besides, he says, it is anachronistic to dwell on such issues — like accusing the Greeks of not supporting women's liberation.

But is it not Stone himself who despises Socrates for being "hard-hearted" towards his wife, Xanthippe, curiously sending her home before he drank hemlock in front of his admiring, philosophical mates?

"That was his wife," says Stone, who has been married for almost 60 years to "just about the most wonderful wife and mother I've ever come across".

"He just didn't act virtuous, he was so busy running around with his boyfriends

and discussing philosophy and being a celebrity..."

Stone chuckles in a wheezing sort of way. While the conventional have admired Socrates as a father of philosophical inquiry, his new American assessor appears to find him, at best, silly. "He was a quirky eccentric," he concedes, "and he had a right to be eccentric. But I don't like the way he treated his wife."

But Socrates's philosophy: his truth-seeking dialectic? "I think it was highly overrated. It was one-sided interrogation, there was no room for speakers to say, 'Hey, wait a minute Soc, you can't get away with that'."

And if I.F. Stone was to meet Socrates in Hades, he would add that he couldn't get away with his claim to be a "gadfly", stinging the "sluggish horse of Athens". *Stone's Weekly* has, he implies, stung more piercingly with its campaigns against McCarthyism, and American imperialism in Central America and Vietnam. Even now, Stone croaks with cynical laughter at the mention of Senator Quayle: "He is the *reductio ad absurdum* of American politics, he has no ideas, he's even dumber than Reagan..."

"I'm a gadfly, and I'm dealing with the man who invented the phrase," Stone asserts. "So I ask Socrates: 'Why didn't you come forward? Why didn't you stung in public as well as private?'"

© *The Trial of Socrates*, by I.F. Stone is published on Thursday by Jonathan Cape (£12.95).



Deckchair writer: I.F. Stone believes that Socrates "had a right to be eccentric. But I don't like the way he treated his wife"

SCIENCE REPORT

Talking teeth

The teeth of animals which existed between about 500 million and 200 million years ago may help solve the biologists' puzzle as to why DNA content varies so widely among living organisms.

Inferring the genetic content of animals long extinct is the ambition also of two British researchers whose work appears in the September 2 issue of *Science*. Except in extremely rare instances, only the hard parts of animals, such as bones and teeth, are preserved as fossils, so we can deduce nothing about how much of the genetic material DNA each cell contained. Nevertheless, such information can be inferred from the impressions left by soft tissues on the preserved hard parts.

Simon Conway Morris of the University of Cambridge, working with Elizabeth Harper of the Open University, has tried to calculate the amount of DNA in the cells of extinct animals called conodonts.

Conodonts have a very long fossil history, known almost entirely from their teeth. Although little is known about their soft anatomy (they were long, wormlike animals which are now believed to have been distant relatives of primitive vertebrates such as lampreys), their teeth are known in great detail.

Conway Morris and Harper have examined thousands of pictures of conodont teeth, looking at the impressions left by the mineral-secreting cells from which the teeth were formed.

From previous research that linked cell size with DNA content in particular groups of animals and plants, the researchers were able to give

rough, relative estimates of how much DNA each mineral-secreting cell contained. They hope to find out if relative DNA content is connected with the evolutionary progress of animals over time.

Biologists still have no idea why DNA content seems to bear no relationship to structural complexity. Simple organisms might be expected to contain less DNA than more complex ones. In reality, DNA content varies enormously, and with no relation to structure. Frog and maize cells, for example, contain much more DNA than human cells.

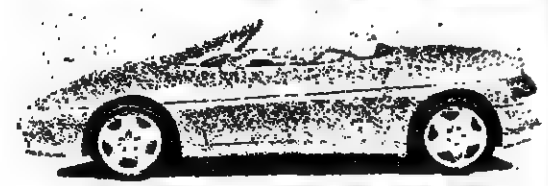
There are compelling reasons for regarding the patterns seen on the conodont teeth as the impressions of single cells. The resemblance between these impressions and those left by cells that secrete dental enamel in mammals is striking. And dental physiologists believe they can draw a connection between the impressions and the size of living cells. But there is no information on the DNA content of these cells, even in mammals.

Conway Morris and Harper's estimates for conodont DNA content show no discernible trends over time. But the research shows that the DNA content of the earliest conodonts was very small; similar evidence has been found for this phenomenon in other long-lived groups, for example the limpets. This is puzzling, because it implies that animals made do with relatively little DNA during a period when new species were evolving rapidly. The evolutionary problems of DNA content are no closer to a resolution.

Henry Gee

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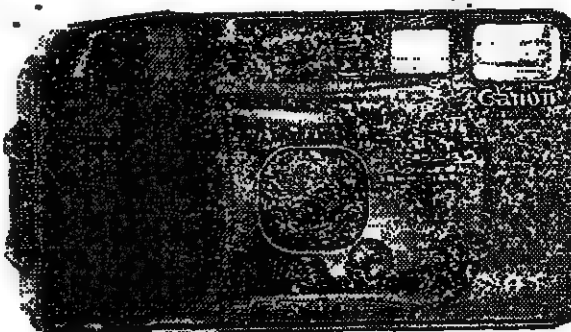
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TIMES DIARY RICHARD OWEN

Strasbourg

It was "tout bloqué", the taxi driver growled as we fought our way yesterday through the normally peaceful medieval streets of Strasbourg, and he had good reason to complain. Not only was it the first day of the new EEC term after the summer holiday but, as the PLO leader began his controversial two-day visit, we had angry pro-Israeli demonstrators in the streets shouting "Arafat-terrorist" and counter-demonstrators shouting "Solidarity with the Palestinian people". "Next month I go on holiday," growled the cabbie.

Next month, it appears, the Pope is visiting Alsace Lorraine, and this inevitably means a call at the European Parliament. According to the local press, hundreds of thousands of people are expected to block the streets of Strasbourg. Next year, if things go to plan, Mikhail Gorbachev will be drawing the crowds, presumably to check if he has more divisions than the Pope.

The European Parliament meets in Strasbourg for its debates one week every month. The rest of the time Euro MPs do committee work, in Brussels, 300 miles away, and constituency work at home. This involves a great deal of travel (and high expenses), and costs the EEC taxpayer more than £200 million a year because of the need to transport translators and staff as well as tons of Euro-documents.

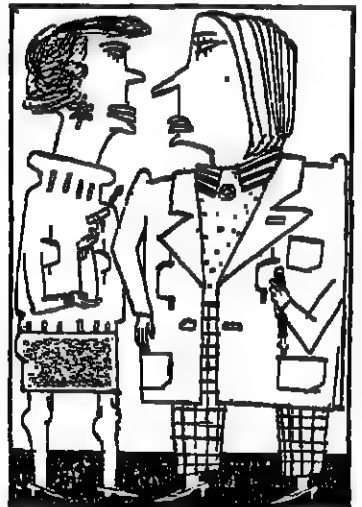
Strasbourg was chosen as the seat of Parliament because it represents European (that is, Franco-German) reconciliation, and partly because Pierre Pfimlin, the former Strasbourg mayor and former president of the Parliament, made sure the town provided palatial Euro-debating premises (shared with the Council of Europe) to match its gastronomic delights.

Pfimlin, of course, means little plumb in French. Inevitably his successor, Lord (formerly Sir Henry) Plumb, is dubbed "Big Plumb", though this does not seem to dent his dignity.

With new powers granted to them under the Single European Act, many Euro MPs are openly agitating to move to the centre of action in Brussels. Not many people know this, but the reason the Parliament building looks like a Top Rank concert centre-hotel is that it is designed to become a conference centre-cum-hotel if the exodus to Brussels occurs — which is why Euro MPs (unlike their Westminster colleagues) have rooms containing a sofa bed and shower.

One report tabled yesterday began: "Having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mrs Bloch von Blotnitz on the destruction of the breeding grounds of the loggerhead turtle on the Greek island of Zante, and having regard to regulation 1872/84/EEC on Community action relating to the environment..." Cynics argue that Euro debates will still consist of wearisome set speeches wherever they take place.

BARRY FANTONI



'Neville's terribly brave. He walks home past a number of foreign embassies'

Could this sort of thing be the reason that attention tends to focus on fringe visitors? Fringe VIPs bring tricky protocol problems with them, however, and many are strictly speaking the guests of political groups rather than the Parliament as a whole. Lord Plumb is under fire for receiving Arafat "in a personal capacity" while refusing the same honour to the Dalai Lama in June, allegedly because of heavy pressure from Peking. Undeterred, Lord Plumb went to China in July and followed this with a trip to Moscow last week, when he invited Gorbachev to Strasbourg. He also made a point of inviting the distinguished dissident Andrei Sakharov to come to Strasbourg in December to receive the European Parliament's human rights award.

Conservative Euro MPs are furious with Mrs Thatcher over her recent remark on the Jimmy Young show to the effect that despite progress towards a frontier-less EEC in 1992 she did not share the vision of a united Europe espoused by other EEC leaders. Their anger is muted however because they agreed at a behind-closed-doors meeting during the summer to try to avoid head-on clashes with the Prime Minister until after the Euro elections in June next year. Mrs Thatcher openly regards some Conservative Euro MPs as having gone native.

To end back in a taxi cab, Lord Plumb — who in Strasbourg cycles to work rather than take the official limousine — went through something of an ordeal during a recent visit to Moscow when trying to order a taxi at the Sovetskaya Hotel (which is where guests of the Soviet government tend to be put up). According to Plumb's staff the conversation with the formidable lady at reception went like this: Plumb: "I'd like to order a taxi please." Receptionist: (reaching for forms in triplicate) "Certainly. When would you like one?" Plumb: "Well, now." Receptionist: "Now?" Plumb: "Now."

Receptionist (putting forms away): "Sorry, you can order taxis only for a specific time." Plumb: "Isn't now a specific time?" Receptionist: "No, taxis can only be ordered..." etc, etc.

Some Russian habits, it seems, are deeply unaffected by the Gorbachev reforms.

Michael Evans explains why the Cuban ambassador had to go

Taming the trigger-happy

vention was drawn up in 1961 to protect diplomats, their families and their staff and to provide them with immunity as they went about their legitimate business of representing their national interests. But in an increasingly violent world, the rules have been abused.

In just one week there have been two cases of diplomats brandishing handguns in London. The Vietnamese third secretary, seen waving a gun outside the entrance of the embassy in Kensington towards a crowd of demonstrators, was ordered out of the country after a week of extraordinary diplomatic exchanges which included the claim that the gun was just a toy.

By all accounts the ambassador was lucky to escape expulsion but he survived the wrath of the Foreign Office partly because the gun was not fired and partly because he handed it over together with the apologies of his government.

The case of the Cuban commercial attaché is clearly different, despite the bizarre claim that his life was in danger after being approached by a Cuban defector. The shots fired sealed both his fate and that of the ambassador.

The two cases expose both the weaknesses and the strengths of the Vienna Convention. Despite repeated warnings, it is clear that weapons are still being brought illegally into this country, probably through the diplomatic bag.

There is very little the Government can do to stop it. For the Vienna Convention stipulates that no country is allowed to open or detain a diplomatic bag. After the murder in 1984 of WPC Yvonne Fletcher by a Libyan diplomat, the Government decided to stretch this rule to allow electronic scanning of a diplomatic bag if there were grounds for suspicion that it contained weapons.

But this broad interpretation

of the Vienna Convention cannot solve the problem, since the authorities are still prevented from opening a diplomatic bag without permission. Even if it were possible to persuade the 160 signatories of the convention to change the rules, the advantages would be outweighed by the disadvantages of having foreign countries rifling through diplomatic bags at will and compromising sensitive equipment such as embassy cyphers.

In spite of the frustrations, the strong stand taken by the Government against the Cubans should serve as an extra deterrent to other embassies who might be tempted to abuse their diplomatic immunity by hiding weapons or by using their protected premises for terrorism. The Foreign Office has been accused by the Opposition of over-reacting by expelling the ambassador. But there appears to have been little choice. There is no purpose in taking a strong

stand against erring diplomats and then backing down in the face of blatant abuse. Since expulsion is the only sanction given to governments under the Vienna Convention, it has to be used both as a punishment and as a deterrent.

Sometimes the decision to act is more difficult because it is more sensitive. The case of the Israeli attaché expelled in June was a case in point. He was believed to be working for the Israeli secret service, Mossad, involved in controlling a Palestinian informer who was spying on PLO activities in this country. The Palestinian, Ismael Sowan, was convicted of charges stemming from the discovery of a large PLO arms cache in his flat in London.

The complaint against the Israelis — which they denied — was that they had failed to let the British authorities know that there was a PLO terrorist in Britain, who later became the

main suspect in the murder of a Palestinian cartoonist.

The case for expelling a diplomat from a friendly country was more difficult to justify. He was not acting against British national interests. Indeed it could be argued that Mossad was uniquely qualified to watch over the activities of suspected PLO terrorists in this country, because of their recognized ability to penetrate the organization. However, the Foreign Office came under severe pressure because of the anger of the police who claimed they had been kept in the dark. Their main suspect in the murder case escaped.

Britain has now gained a reputation for being tough on abuse of diplomatic immunity, whether it involves drunk drivers and persistent parking offenders or more serious crimes. The number of incidents involving firearms has been relatively few. Yet in recent years, London has experienced some of the worst abuses. The rules of the Vienna Convention cannot be changed. But it is clearly in the interests of this country and the diplomatic community in general that Britain maintains its reputation for dealing appropriately with so-called envoys who behave like gangsters in the streets of London.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Swatting the Wasps



The new prosperous blacks — one of the groups wooed by an increasingly aggressive Dukakis



6 For the 'ethnic' lower middle class — Italians, Irish, Poles, Jews and others — Bush-Quayle is as bad a ticket as the Republicans could possibly have devised, reeking not just of wealth but of caste?

con context. To win, Dukakis needs to detach a large section of the lower middle class from their Reaganite coalition with the rich. This is a most delicate and difficult task.

"Soak the rich", or anything smacking of that, could be fatal to the chances of the Democratic presidential candidate. "Soak the rich, and we're next for shaving", would be the general reaction of American middle-class voters. The relevant principle was formulated by Edmund Burke nearly 200 years ago, when he was successfully dissuading the English middle class from going the way of the French. "Property", said Burke, "is best defended in vast masses of accumulation."

The people who votes Michael Dukakis needs would not know about E. Burke, but they do recognize the phenomenon

Burke was talking about. That recognition is what sustained the Reagan coalition, and enough of that coalition may remain to give victory to the Bush-Quayle ticket on November 8. Dukakis has to be very careful in dealing with this. Yet Dukakis has something going for him: the members of the Bush-Quayle ticket (minus the folksy Reagan).

In terms of the block of votes now most in contention, the "ethnic" lower middle class — Italians, Irish, Poles, Jews and others — Bush-Quayle is as bad a ticket as the Republicans could possibly have devised. The ticket reeks, not just of wealth, which would be quite all right, but of caste: the WASP — White Anglo-Saxon Protestant — elite which traditionally thought of itself as the exclusive embodiment of

America, and perhaps still does, but aren't let it show in the late 20th century.

Class resentment — resentment based on inequalities of wealth — is un-American, and therefore electorally out. But caste resentment — the rejection of a claim to superiority by a particular ethnic group — is very American indeed, at least in the opinion of non-WASP voters.

I have an increasing hunch, as I watch this campaign, that this WASP-versus-ethnics theme — the theme to which Dukakis addresses himself through the coded phrase "The American Dream" — may turn out to be more important, when it comes to voting, than the polls at present reflect. I suspect there are quite a few ethnics who now tell pollsters they will vote Republican but who, in the privacy of the polling booth,

may not have the stomach to depress the Bush-Quayle lever with its associations of second-class citizenship for non-Wasps. Republican strategists, however, calculate that the ticket could afford to lose about half the "Reagan Democrats" and still win. So it still looks close.

After a bad August, Dukakis last week changed his style, from low-key into angry and aggressive. Throughout August he had generally refrained from replying to Bush's portrayal of him as a dangerous "liberal", the term Republicans have made to sound synonymous with the "Commie" of old.

But last week Dukakis hit back at Bush, accusing the Republicans of using the same old McCarthyite tactics against him that they had used against Roosevelt and Truman: names well chosen to appeal to the Reagan Democrat. Dukakis also said a number of other unkind things about Bush and Quayle. At the weekend he told the Washington Post that he preferred "not to get involved in these kinds of exchanges". "But," he went on, "if that's what the Bush campaign is into, and it is rather obviously, we'll take them on. And I believe the time has come to do so."

That ought to play pretty well in Peoria, Illinois, and else-

where. American folk tradition is full of little guys who meekly let themselves get pushed around for a while, and then all of a sudden get fighting mad, and finish up by licking the heavies. Ronald Reagan may not be the only American politician who can make memories of old B movies work for him.

The campaign is hotting up, as its penultimate stage unfolds between Labour Day and the end of the baseball World Series (late October). Last week, for the first time, both Dukakis and Bentsen, his running mate, started to give George Bush the treatment, over the drugs issue.

From the Democratic point of view this is an exceedingly attractive issue. It is a live issue, one about which millions of Americans, including all middle-class Americans, care deeply. And it is an issue on which Bush is highly vulnerable.

Since 1983 Bush has had overall responsibility within the Reagan administration for the loudly proclaimed "War on Drugs". The people who have been winning the war on drugs, during the period in question, have been the drug barons. And there is reason to believe that one reason the drug barons did so well was that officials of the Reagan administration were in collusion with some of them — General Manuel Noriega of Panama, for example — regarding them as valued allies in the struggle against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. To rate the struggle against the Sandinistas more important than the war on drugs would seem wrong to most Americans.

Middle-class Americans are full of anger and frustration about drugs. The Democrats have good reasons to hope that they can make George Bush a target for those feelings. In the closing stages of the campaign the Democrats will try to convince voters that the best test of George Bush's fitness for the presidency is his record as leader of the Reagan administration's "War on Drugs". If the Democrats can convince enough floating voters that that test is appropriate, then Michael Dukakis will be the next president of the United States.

Commentary • MARGARET EWING

Scots' two-front fight

As the SNP meets for its conference in Inverness today, delegates exude a muted confidence. The heady power-broking days of the 1970s have gone; instead there is a calm recognition that the party's message may be the real mould-breaker of British politics.

Since 1979 Scotland has been governed by an alien political power, but the 1987 general election crystallized the North-South divide. The Conservatives, losing a football team of Scottish MPs, were reduced to a rump of ten. In such a situation Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, is easily cast in the rôle of governor-general and recent attempts to use professional public relations to sell his government's policies are interpreted as the actions of the despatch.

Although the SNP has only three MPs it has great grassroots strength and is profiting from a growing Scottish awareness of the failure of Labour's "Feeble Fifty" MPs to protect Scotland from the economic and ideological excesses of a government dominated by South-east England.

In the May 1988 district elections the SNP fielded the largest number of candidates — a fact which in itself reflects the growing bullishness of its grassroots organization. While results were not spectacular it propelled itself into being the second largest party, in terms of votes, in Scotland. This is now reflected in a growing cohesiveness

in local government activity and within the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Alongside this organizational progress there has been a slow but steady increase in opinion poll ratings. No one in the SNP any longer expects — although they would welcome — a spectacular breakthrough such as that achieved in the mid-1970s. The aim is to extend the power base into a committed and energetic nationalist workforce chipping away at the populous, Labour-dominated central belt.

Two current issues hold the key to SNP progress. One is the domestic question of local government finance; the second the rôle of Scotland in Europe. Both will form centrepiece debates at Inverness.

Scotland still smart from its rôle as guinea-pig for the poll tax. The quinquennial revaluations of domestic properties in 1973 and 1978 — nearly sidestepped temporarily in the general election year of 1983 — have resulted in an appreciably higher rating burden on Scottish householders compared to their southern counterparts.

The SNP, a consistent opponent of the poll tax and a supporter of local income tax, has asked that 10,000 Scots pledge not to pay the tax when implemented. It sees a mass campaign of this nature as the most effective opposition to this regressive tax. While not an easy path to tread, a normally dour electorate is seeking strong leadership.

Labour's failure to provide a suited front leaves it vulnerable; its leadership shies away from confrontation but at branch level Labour members, having seen non-registration as an idle and ineffective gesture, are moving towards the SNP position. In this case, a principled stance likely to attract the overwhelming support of the conference may be a weapon with a cutting edge. At a special conference on the poll tax in Glasgow on Saturday the Labour Party will seek an easy option: the SNP offers the tough option.

Added to this there is growing concern about the Government's apparent back-tracking to offer a deadline for the introduction of a Uniform Business Rate (UBR). The present set-up places Scottish businesses, large and small, at a severe financial disadvantage. The second key issue for the SNP is the European dimension. All eight candidates are already in place for the 1989 Euro elections and hopes are high that the party's president, Winnie Ewing, MEP for the Highlands and Islands, will have at least one other SNP colleague joining her in Strasbourg next June.

The party is committed to the idea that an independent Scotland would seek its own terms for membership of the European Community and then seek approval or rejection of these terms in a referendum. It is widely believed that Scotland's strength as an energy-rich nation would extract terms advantageous to

her other principal industries.

At Inverness there will be a heated debate about the implications of 1992. The conference slogan reads "Scotland's future — independence in Europe", a stark statement which has provoked strong dissent among those who believe a transfer of sovereignty to Brussels is less attractive than retention of sovereignty in Westminster.

But the SNP's rôle as a party seeking international recognition for its aim of a Scottish state will certainly lead to the endorsement of the national executive committee's view. The party's MPs, in their recent parliamentary debate, found the Government and official opposition parties at a loss for coherent argument against the concept of an independent Scotland in Europe. Malcolm Rifkind, adopting a little English-lander approach, resorted to cheap jibes about other small member nations of the European Community in a speech which has caused widespread irritation in Ireland, Luxembourg and Greece.

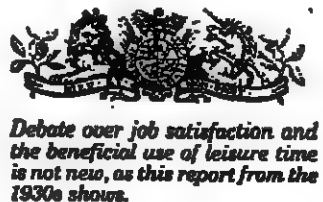
The development of the SNP into a party of initiative and leadership is a far cry from the days of the protest vote. For the "major" parties to ignore the change would be a sign of their weakness to respond to a political sea change in Scotland. Once again, Scottish politics is dynamic and exciting; and the SNP is in the van.

The author, MP for Moray, is parliamentary leader of the SNP.

SEPT 14

ON THIS DAY

1935



Debate over job satisfaction and the beneficial use of leisure time is not new, as this report from the 1930s shows.

LEISURE TIME OF GIRL WORKERS

A survey of the leisure-time needs of girls and young women, and of the provision made for meeting such needs, has been made by the National Council of Girls' Clubs, under the auspices of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. The report of Miss Madeline Rooft, who organized the inquiry, is based on replies to a questionnaire sent to girls' clubs throughout the country, on interviews, and on a detailed study of conditions in 50 selected towns in England and South Wales.

The recent Ministry of Labour report on juvenile employment showed that the distributive trades gave employment to more insured boys and girls than any other five industries or trades taken together. Yet these, the report states, are the trades which are notorious for long working hours, and where much of the work is of a non-progressive character...

Whenever new machinery was introduced there was a tendency for girls to be introduced rather than adults or boys. The general opinion seemed to be that girls took more kindly than boys to the repetitive processes which were becoming increasingly common in industry. Was it right to assume that work which involved repetitive processes was necessarily "soul destroying"?

The value of clubs in offering opportunities for healthy recreational activity, and in training girls to use their own initiative and to take responsibility, could not be over-estimated when the working lives of so many young people were considered.

Dealing with the various organizations for girls, the report says the Girl Guides' Association is the most widespread and has the largest membership of all the uniformed organizations. The patrol system, encouraging working in small groups, was ideally suited to the girl of school age, but later Guide activities had no longer the same appeal, and the section for seniors had never had the same flourishing existence.

The appeal which the Youth Hostels Association made to young men and women all over the country is noted in the report, which points out that of the total membership of approximately 40,000 over 70 per cent are under 25 years of age. The movement towards the open air had received a great impetus from the foundation of the YHA. A rough estimate of occupational membership of the association put one-third as manual workers, one-half as the "black coat" group, and the remaining fraction as of the university-student type.

Rambling and cycle clubs were becoming increasingly popular and the membership of the Cyclists' Touring Club had increased from 8,546 in 1918 to 30,161 in 1933. There were also indications of the growing popularity of camping. The report admits that it is difficult to estimate how much recreation is found in reading or listening to wireless programmes... There were indications of a great falling off in reading at the age of 14...



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PARTY OF THE UNION

Immediately after the 1987 general election it was the Government that seemed to have the difficult task north of the border. It is now clear that Scotland is giving Mr Kinnock the greater problems of political management.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind and his small band of fellow Conservative MPs have been sometimes over-stretched in Parliament. But Labour's Scottish worries — most notably the boycott campaign against the community charge — go further. They strike at the heart of its position as a constitutional party.

They also raise a spectre Labour had hoped was buried in the 1970s. Just as Scottish separatism haunted the Callaghan government, so Mr Kinnock's faltering efforts to modernize the Opposition could come to grief through the efforts of Nationalists inside and outside the Scottish Labour Party.

Opinion polls suggest that a revival of Scottish nationalism may be about to take place. As far as separatist aspirations are concerned, this should not be exaggerated. The movement is not fed on great historical wrongs. The party lacks a solid social base. Unlike the 1970s when it could "bribe" the Scottish electorate with the riches of North Sea Oil, the SNP has little tangible to offer potential supporters.

But although nationalism in Scotland continues to owe as much to the pundits and professors as to deep realities, there does appear to be a historical correlation of sorts between the relative prosperity of the Scottish economy and the waves of Nationalist sentiment which from time to time occur. Threatened by hard times, the Scots retreat into traditional political categories. Buoyed by relative affluence (and continuing infusions of public expenditure above the UK average) nationalism can be afforded. There is certainly enough of it to make the outcome of the Glasgow Govan by-election more interesting than it promised to be.

Labour is the major electoral force in Scotland. Any SNP revival is thus a threat to it. But this revival is particularly threatening since it is based specifically upon its campaign for non-payment of the unpopular community charge. This is both diverting attention from its more fanciful aims of independence and threatening to drag Labour down the same road of illegality.

For Scottish Labour MPs this Parliament

has been intensely frustrating. Despite their record numbers, they have been able to exert little influence by playing to the rules. Some have long been pressing for stronger and more direct action. Non-payment of the poll tax — an act of civil disobedience — offers them the perfect opportunity. Were the SNP's non-payment campaign to lead to short-term electoral gain in Glasgow Govan and elsewhere, the pressure on the Labour leadership for a change of course would dramatically increase.

The rebels, of course, are already in an impossible position. With the exception of Mr John Mulvey of Lothian, who is resigning his local authority position, they have wanted both to appear tribunes of the people against an iniquitous impost and wielders of local authority power. The contradiction is plain. Labour cannot both be the party of the council chamber (the operation of which depends on the successful collection of the charge) and the party of civil disobedience.

But Mr Kinnock has a balancing act to perform. He will want to keep his fiscal dissenters in check without giving the Nationalists room to manoeuvre at what appears a favourable time for political romanticism. Practically, that means holding the Govan election not next spring after a long "poll tax" campaign but as soon as possible.

The Government must resist Mr Kinnock's difficulty here — as elsewhere. But it would do well to accommodate Mr Kinnock on the election timing for two good reasons. First, revenue from community charge must be maximized if the system is to work without some local catastrophes. It is in no one's interest, especially those who depend on council services, deliberately to secure a shortfall. Mr Kinnock and the Government are, temporarily, united on that.

Secondly, the Government correctly calculates that the Union of Scotland and England is much more robust than is conventionally thought. It could certainly sustain a closer alignment of fiscal and other policies north and south of the border. But the application to Scotland of what is loosely called " Thatcherism", though safe and overdue, might be less easy if there were not one but two separatist parties in the House of Commons. Labour needs to be kept a Party of the Union.

THE NEXT POST

The postal workers seem bent on showing — as the engine drivers and other groups of organized labour have before them — that the rank and file are just as militant as their union leadership and perhaps more so. In spite of the deal between management and the Union of Communication Workers executive on Monday, several major sorting centres were still being picketed yesterday.

The weakness of the UCW leadership further reinforces the case for a radical review of the whole framework within which the Post Office operates. If the monopoly is to be at all tolerable it requires strong discipline. In return for accepting a monopoly the customer requires that the service should be reliable and decisions enforceable. Where this cannot be delivered the case for market disciplines in place of statutory ones is all the more strengthened.

The potential settlement reached on Monday appears to have left most of the cards in the management's hands. The union leadership has agreed to discuss flexible pay rates in order to maintain recruitment — the issue over which the original 24-hour strike took place — and this will do much to enable the Royal Mail to deliver the improved service which customers in London and other large centres expect.

With staff turnover varying from about 7 per cent a year in Inverness to 80 per cent in Redhill some kind of flexibility was essential to the Post Office. If the management has to call this "London weighting" rather than Difficult Recruitment Areas Supplement this may be a small price to pay.

But discussions after the strike should not stop there. The Government should independently set in motion a review of the Post

Office's future. Girobank is already being privatized and Royal Mail Parcels is operating in a free market with several private sector competitors. That leaves Post Office Counters and the letter mail where there are also strong arguments for introducing competition.

Post Office Counters does not differ in essentials from any other specialized high street chain. It should be asked to compete for its Government business.

Political problems arise from the cross-subsidization of the rural sub-Post Offices by the more profitable urban operation. They will not be negligible. One suggestion has been to remove the subsidy and ask those living in rural areas to pay the associated costs. A better one would be to apply some of the proceeds of the sale of the urban counters to subsidizing the rural areas.

Introducing competition in the letter mail presents bigger problems, but they are no bigger than those which have been faced in the privatization of British Telecom and British Gas. The challenge is to devise a regulatory regime which ensures that competition can develop where it is economic for it to do so.

Some parts of the operation, such as delivery, might be regarded as natural monopolies while others, such as collection and sorting, might not. The problems, and opportunities, of building a competitive postal industry are no greater in principle than those arising in the other utilities.

The Government should use the spur of the strike to do some fresh thinking. Competition is more likely than any amount of late-night negotiation to introduce discipline in the workforce of the remaining nationalized industries and improvement in their services.

THE MEN FROM HAVANA

The Government has acted quickly and correctly in expelling the Cuban ambassador from Britain. Mystery still enfolds the shooting in central London which led to his departure. But the path for the Foreign Office to follow was clear enough.

There is no argument over the expulsion of the "commercial attaché" who fired the shots. Whatever the circumstances, all visiting officials from abroad must know this country's firearms laws. They are protected from prosecution by their much-abused right to diplomatic immunity. Eviction from Britain is the only recourse.

The Government has been criticized, however, by two Labour front-bench spokesmen, Mr George Foulkes and Mr Bryan Gould, for ambiguing "over the top" in expelling the ambassador as well. This action, it is claimed, jeopardizes a potential £100 million deal over 10 merchant ships for Cuba from North-East Shipbuilders.

Such criticism is hard to take seriously. Cuba is no ordinary country but a hostile Communist state whose soldiers, acting in miles from its shores, operate thousands of miles from its shores. Trade considerations need to be seen accordingly. So do the guns of its diplomats.

An ambassador is responsible for all that goes on in his embassy and for the conduct of his staff. Dr Oscar Fernandez-Mell has his staff. Dr Oscar Fernandez-Mell has his staff. Dr Oscar Fernandez-Mell has his staff.

The incident has happened at a time of renewed anxiety over the number of firearms at large in Britain. It also came just after a Vietnamese official was seen brandishing a revolver at some demonstrators from his

embassy steps. Only a fulsome apology saved the Vietnamese ambassador too from boarding the aircraft back to Ho Chi Minh City.

Although Britain has retained full diplomatic relations with Cuba since Castro first seized power nearly 30 years ago, for many years Cuba did not have a full ambassador in its London embassy, chiefly because, it was said, no suitable candidate could be found. It is not known why Dr Fernandez-Mell arrived last year, whether it was to presage a better era in Anglo-Cuban relations or for some other reason. He is said to be close to Castro and was hand-picked by his mentor for this post.

He came at a time when both governments had publicly declared their intentions of trying to add some warmth to the relationship. Cuba is passing through an acute economic crisis. The fall in oil prices, the appreciation of the dollar, a shortage of hard currency and a rising foreign debt are together forcing Castro's hand.

What might be in this for Britain is debatable. The trade figures show a healthy balance in this country's favour — with more than £41 million worth of exports going to Havana last year and a mere £12 million worth of imports coming here in return. But exports have been declining in recent years as a function of Cuba's penury. It is already heavily in debt to a number of British companies.

To raise fears (as Mr Gould has done) about the threat to a deal over ships is, at best, premature. The Cubans have so far only asked for a price to be quoted and there are good grounds for doubting Cuba's ability to pay.

But this should not enter Whitehall's consideration. An important principle is involved. All foreign diplomats must respect the law and keep the peace — those of unfriendly powers especially so.

World action to contain disasters

From Mr Toby Jessel, MP for Twickenham (Conservative)
Sir, Bangladesh, stricken by flood, is now under threat from an epidemic of cholera. In 1971, three months before Bangladesh independence, I was in the parliamentary delegation to India and Pakistan, led by Lord Bottomley.

We saw at first hand the plight of some of the 10 million refugees from East Bengal. They had fled in fear from the Pakistan Army into India. The Indians wanted to care for them but for such a huge number, at short notice, there was nowhere for most of them to go but for fields and ditches. Mass cholera threatened them, too.

India was later to march into and liberate Bangladesh and repatriate the refugees. But, meanwhile, to contain the cholera, the Indian Government ensured that inoculations were provided and ruled that, to obtain a food ration card, each refugee must first show a certificate of cholera inoculation.

This robust policy sprang from compassion. It meant that deaths from cholera were confined to 3,000 out of 10 million. Without this, the number of cholera deaths would have been immense.

Can the world now learn from what the Indians did? No doubt the international community will be asked to provide cholera jabs as well as emergency food supplies. Can the world request that their administration, as far as possible, be linked?
Yours faithfully,
TOBY JESSEL,
House of Commons,
September 12.

From Mr Richard Ottaway

Sir, The work currently undertaken by the leading aid charities in Sudan and Bangladesh, the quick response to these tragedies by the department of overseas aid, and the tremendous effort by all those involved in the "Race against Time" (report and photographs, September 12) deserve our fullest support.

But will the funds, food, medicine, and equipment sent do anything to stop the disasters and epidemics happening again? I doubt it.

Starting with the recent Ethiopian famines, we are now witnessing the accelerating repercussions of the world population explosion. The deforestation in sub-Saharan Africa by a dramatically expanding population desperate for fuel has led to the erosion of the agricultural land and the resulting famine. A similar situation in Bangladesh has caused the terrible floods.

Sadly, governments and aid charities give a low priority to aid for family-planning programmes. They will pay lip service to the need, but the item remains low on the agenda.

There will be more famines and disasters to come unless there is a shift of opinion on family planning and contraception amongst those giving aid and advice to the Third World.
Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OTTAWAY,
The Studio,
20 Church Street, W4,
September 12.

Choice of bishops

From Mr Peter Royle
Sir, Dr Montefiore (Commentary, September 5), on whose council I served in his last years as Bishop of Birmingham, should be aware that a private member's motion, introduced in the Birmingham diocesan synod by the Bishop of Aston during the vacancy in see, sought the backing of the synod to ensure that "the appointment of bishops for the Church of England should be conducted entirely by a church process without participation in that process of either the Prime Minister or the Crown". (I understand that your comments, Sir, at the time of the announcement of Dr Montefiore's successor

had stimulated the Bishop of Aston's resort to the synodical process.)

The vote was by Houses and, while the clergy were in favour by a majority of 10, the motion was roundly rejected by the laity.

It is axiomatic that one should not trust politicians. Perhaps Dr Montefiore might like to reflect why the informed laity, of the diocese of Birmingham at least, would rather trust the politicians to provide a longstop than leave it to the bishops.
Yours faithfully,
PETER ROYLE,
17 Woodfield Road,
Solihull, West Midlands,
September 6.

Air crash deaths

From Mr Winston S. Churchill, MP for Don Valley (Conservative)
Sir, As a close friend of Andrew and Randall Crawley who, with their companion, Mr Charles Kyruluzi, were killed in the tragic light aircraft crash in the mountains north of Turin on Saturday, I have been deeply shocked — and their families mortified — at the way in which certain sections of the British Press, not *The Times*, but including Mr Derek Jameson, on his BBC Radio programme this morning, have accepted the false and malicious allegations being put about by the Italian Press implying that there was some mystery attached to the flight and the suggestion that the pilots had given false names and made false declarations about the number of people aboard the aircraft.

Such accusations, though I am sure unintended, have caused deep hurt to the families of those involved and most especially to the young widows, two of whom are expecting babies in November.

The facts are easily explained. The reason for the discrepancy in the signatures given on the flight plan handed in at Bari and the one at Turin Airport is that the two brothers who owned the plane were both qualified pilots. The Bari flight plan was signed by Randall Crawley, the Turin Airport flight plan by Andrew Crawley.

Nor is there any mystery about the alleged differences in the number of people declared by the pilots to have been aboard the aircraft. As one who is myself a qualified commercial pilot, I know very well that on the flight plan one is required to give the number of persons on board. The answer to this was correctly given as "three".

Mortgage strategy

From Mr P. W. F. Britton
Sir, Now that we know through the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, John Major (report, September 12) that the Government's policy on interest rates is principally charitable, namely to induce at least a 10 per cent decline in house prices, I have the following proposal to commend to the Government.

Fax numbers

From Mr Adrian Fisher
Sir, I suspect I am not alone in being overwhelmed this week by a flood of new fax numbers.

To avoid confusion in my address book, I have found it helpful to indicate fax numbers by underlining them, to distinguish them from telephone numbers.

This idea could also be used on headed notepaper, to reduce the current state of people trying to speak to fax machines.
Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN FISHER,
Pegasus Office Systems,
42 Brampton Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Until the postal backlog is cleared letters to the Editor may be sent to a temporary fax number,
(01) 782 5864.

In the case of the "general declaration" form, which is required by airport administrations, the question relates not to the number of persons on board but the number of passengers, crew being excluded from the count. In this case the answer was also correctly given as "one".

I should be most grateful if, as a service to your readers and out of respect for the young men who perished in this tragic accident, you would publish this letter to correct any wrong impression that they may have in some way given false names or made false declarations — something which is categorically untrue.
Yours faithfully,
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL,
House of Commons,
September 13.

'Mumbo jumbo'

From the Reverend D. L. Graham
Sir, The Oxford English Dictionary gives 1738 as the first occurrence of "Mumbo Jumbo" (letters, August 2, 23, 30); this is 57 years before Mungo Park's first expedition to Africa. The 1738 quotation is: "A dreadful bugbear to the women call'd Mumbo, Jumbo which is what keeps the women in awe".

A former provost of Eton, Lord Hugh Cecil (later Lord Quickswood) was once challenged as to his authority to override the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer. He retorted: "Provest, I am the Ordinary of the Chapel and I'll should so wish I could have the present services replaced by the worship of Mumbo Jumbo."
Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS GRAHAM,
Forest Cottage,
Lockridge, Wiltshire,
August 31.

Would it not be fair to impose a windfall tax on the extra profits that this policy will undoubtedly generate for the banks and the building societies? This fund could be used for two purposes.

First, to assist those persons who default on their mortgages, having borrowed not to speculate but in order to purchase a home in which to live: I am sure there are many in professional practice, like myself, who are well aware of the impact that a sustained increase in interest rates could have, in particular for recent first-time buyers.

Any balance from the tax could be used to assist housing associations in those areas where the current housing shortage has had the greatest impact on house prices.

I am sure that the policy will commend itself to our Government in order to dissuade an otherwise cynical public from thinking that Mr Major's recent statements are nothing more than a public relations stunt intended to take the heat off an otherwise beleaguered Government.
Yours faithfully,
PETER BRITTON,
Windy Ridge,
Brow of the Hill,
Leziate, Kings Lynn, Norfolk,
September 12.

Testing time for examinations

From the Headmaster of Stowmarket High School

Sir, Last Saturday's article on modern tribalism by Desmond Morris and Peter Marsh (Review, September 10) made little mention of the examination systems which have such an important place in modern industrialised countries. The anxieties and stresses of a major change in life — from dependent child to young worker — are often focused at an initiation by examinations.

The complicated lore of the GCSE and its predecessors, the awed hush of the examination hall, the customary publication of successes in local papers, the speech-day presentations, the grief or indignation of those gaining a grade D instead of a grade C, are all so familiar in our meritocratic society that their existence is taken for granted. Attempts to change the traditional arrangements by introducing novel examination systems are customarily viewed with suspicion.

There are, too, "progressive grades of status", with students "proceeding by degrees" as the Masons do. There are strange poems and mortarboards which become increasingly elaborate at the more prestigious levels.

Examinations are now taken by the great majority of people. Those who are not able enough to be entered or to feel successful can experience the bitterness of rejection and resentment, it is because of this that many seek membership of alternative "tribes" which the more conventional of us can find disturbing.

If we are indeed concerned about this situation, in which a significant proportion of the nation feels disenfranchised, then we should be re-assessing our practices in over-publicising examina-

tion results and in over-emphasising such matters when seeking recruits.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. MONTGOMERY,
Headmaster,
Stowmarket High School,
Onehouse Road,
Stowmarket, Suffolk,
September 11.

From Mrs M Bleach
Sir, Since I am sure Jack Straw (Comment, September 8) is right in saying that state schools are often judged more harshly than private ones, it might be worth noting that Camden School for Girls, an Ilea school with unselected entry in a mixed inner city area, entered 59 students for A-level English. Two failed, no other pupil obtained less than a C and there were 30 As. A fine result indeed. Did any of the selective schools do as well, I wonder?
Yours faithfully,
M. BLEACH,
41 Mount Ararat Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
September 12.

From the Headmaster of Dean Close School
Sir, While I have much sympathy with Mr Straw's article, his figures for the relative fees of maintained and independent schools contain an important error.

The cost of the administration of maintained education from the secretary of the state down to the local education authority is not included in the low fee quoted but it is in the figures for independent schools. The latter, moreover, contain a component for capital expenditure as well. We should always compare like with like!
Yours faithfully,
C. J. BACON, Headmaster,
Dean Close School,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Pupils in Wandsworth

From the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority
Sir, Your report (September 12) of Donald Naismith's plan to militarise and politicise the pupils of Wandsworth is alarming, not least since he seems to be basing his suppositions about Wandsworth education on a sad lack of real information about existing policies.

In line with the Department of Education and Science guidelines, political education in Ilea schools — as with all other controversial issues — has been balanced and has always avoided any attempt to introduce the sort of political indoctrination which it seems is now being planned for Wandsworth.

'Last Temptation'

From Mrs Jeannette M Boothby
Sir, I propose to write a film or television play. It will star a man bearing your name who is Editor of *The Times*, lives in your house, shares your family circumstances; in fact, your family will feature in several rather torrid, perhaps even orgiastic, scenes.

The film will be shown worldwide, and hopefully also on television, and will attract widespread publicity due to the colourful sexual scenes. Oh yes, because I realise that much of this may not be true, I shall call it fiction, so as not to be open to criticisms of libel.

Such are the circumstances surrounding the current film, *The Last Temptation of Christ* (to which I regret giving even momentary publicity) and also the recent autobiographical drama about the Falklands War written by an injured officer. By hiding behind the term of "fiction", both authors reveal both a paucity of imagination and immaturity in being unable to face reality as it truly is or was. But both leave indelible imprints on viewers' minds which, although fiction, will be forever identified with the characters concerned.

After seeing my mythical (yes, you can relax) screenplay, your friends will forever greet you with at best knowing grins, and at worst shun you. Your wife and family will suffer the same fate.

African elephant

From Sir Christopher Lever
Sir, In your report (September 2) entitled "Kenyan officials are accused as battle rages over 'massacre of elephants'", you state that whereas the Minister for Tourism, Mr George Muhoho, claims there are some 22,000 elephants in Kenya, the Chairman of the East African Wildlife Society, Mr Richard Leakey, says there are less than 6,000. This discrepancy is easily explained.

The 1987 count in protected areas (i.e., national parks and nature reserves) revealed a total of 13,268 — a decline since 1973 of 72 per cent. The total in unprotected areas was 6,481 — a fall of 92 per cent. This gives a 1987 grand total of elephants in Kenya of 19,749 — a drop of 85 per cent. (Figures are from the African Elephant Database Report, UNEP, 1987).

You quote the chairman of the Kenya Association of Tour Operators, Mr Gideon Kago, as saying that the poachers are "small timers". This is not so. Ivory poaching in Kenya (as elsewhere in Africa) is now big business, conducted by highly professional and dangerous gangs armed with automatic weapons. A recent, and particularly unpleasant, development has been the use of mercury as a poison in bananas. This not only kills elephants indiscriminately, but many other animals as well.

One can never stop writers from producing such dangerous distortions, but as a mature society we must develop some system for seeing that they do not damage both living and dead people whom they portray.
Yours faithfully,
JEANNETTE M. BOOTHBY,
84 Manor Way,
Beckenham, Kent.

Blown off course?

From Mr D. F. B. Le Breton
Sir, Philip Howard's account (September 6) of how up/down word usage is becoming related to a north/south distinction does not apply everywhere. In Anguilla in the eastern Caribbean, any object place or person is commonly said to be above if it is located to the east of something else, and below if to the west, regardless of the comparative elevation of the two.
This custom has arisen through the strong Anguillian tradition of seafaring and sailing, where the advantage in safety or free manoeuvre lies in the upwind position, the wind throughout the year being almost invariably from the east.
Is the converse perhaps found in other latitudes where the wind blows from the west?
Yours faithfully,
D. F. B. LE BRETON,
Brackenwood,
French Street,
Westerham, Kent,
September 9.

If the elephant is to survive in Africa, a high-profile campaign to combat ivory poaching is urgently needed. In a few years' time it will be too late. Without such an operation, the African elephant will undoubtedly soon be in the same parlous state as the black rhinoceros.
Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LEVER (Vice-President, International Trust for Nature Conservation),
Newell House,
Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire,
September 10.

Naming of parts

From the Reverend John Ticehurst
Sir, Yesterday I met a Mr Hands and a Mr Legge I have known a Miss Kneze and a Mrs Head, not to mention a Mr Kneebone. I have heard of a Mr Chinn and a Mrs Calf, a Miss Noseworthy, a Mr Foot and Mrs Armes: even come to think of it, a Mr Butt.
But no Eyes (though a Mr See), no Ears, no Elbows. Not an Ankle in sight, nor Ribs, Chest, Collars or Spines. At least, I shall probably be told there are hosts of them somewhere. But I wonder why it is that some parts of the body have become surnames, and others have not?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN TICEHURST,
17 Frankly Avenue,
Braunton, North Devon
September 8.

WEDNESDAY PAGE

'You become a news addict, with your stomach in a knot until the first headline. If there has been a bomb, you feel physically sick'

Shortly before each of her three young army officer sons was first posted to Northern Ireland, Helen Wright (not her real name) drove them past pretty English graveyards and told them brightly: "That's the sort of place I'd like to be buried, what about you?"

The subterfuge was, she explains, "to get some idea of what they would like done to them in case they came home in a box." Eight years on, her sons are still serving their four-month terms of duty in Ulster "with monotonous regularity. It seems like forever. As soon as one leaves, another replaces him. At one point all three of them were there together."

Helen signs her letters to them with a cheerful "Keep ducking!" After more than 30 years of marriage to an officer, she has perfected the protective veneer of the army wife; but in her case the stiff upper lip is more of a wry grin and a flip aside which makes her true feelings all the more poignant when she lets the mask slip.

"It is absolutely horrific," she admits during one such moment. "You become addicted to the news bulletins. Your stomach is in a tight knot until the first headline is over. Then, if there's been a bomb in Northern Ireland, you feel physically sick and you give yourself six hours because you think they must ring within six hours. Then six hours is up and you start to relax and so it goes on. It's desperate."

She saw her youngest son on television the other night "brandishing a gun. It was awful." She listens to the first radio bulletin in bed at 6am and then on every hour throughout the day. Every day, if there has been a bomb she spends the next six traumatic hours furiously weeding her small garden to deaden the terror. And eating. "I sit and stuff myself. My husband has four times the woman he had." She has gained four stone since her sons first went to Ulster.

The daughter of an Irish father and Scottish mother, she was brought up in a strict Protestant household in Scotland — "church three times on Sunday and then Bible class at the end of it" — and recalls the sectarian clashes of her primary school days.

Recently Helen Wright saw her son on television, brandishing a gun. He is serving in the army in Northern Ireland, as are her two other sons. Sally Brompton met her

"There was a Catholic school down the road and at four o'clock we would get sticks out of the bushes and get in a long line to beat up the Catholics who were coming down the road armed with sticks to beat us up." She was eight years old at the time.

The curious thing was the fact that the Protestant and Catholic children were otherwise the best of friends. As might be expected, she blames much of the troubles of Ireland on the divided system of education. "It must start with the schools; if they're going to have their religion it should be either at home or in church and the schools should be totally secular."

Her own sons spent nearly four years of their early schooling in Belfast when their father was posted there. When the boys were posted to Ulster, her initial feelings were "how nice — they'll be able to see where they went to school. And then I thought 'isn't it sad that there they are fighting in the same streets where they had such a pleasant youth'."

There was never any question that they would do anything other than join the army. "I've photographs of the boys dressed up in bits of uniform from the year dot." Today, two of them are married. "Actually that makes it slightly worse because I'm no longer next-of-kin and I wouldn't get the news first." A rueful grin. "Isn't that awful!"

Her third son is thinking about leaving the army, "would you believe, because he feels he isn't stretched?" The relief one would expect her to feel is muted. "I do have a slight regret that he is

giving up what could have been a tremendous career."

"Of course, there is the risk that he might be killed, but then he might be killed crossing the road." As far as her sons are concerned, the danger is part of the attraction. "It is what they have been trained for and they find life when they are not in Northern Ireland a bit dull. I don't think they regard it as war. I think they regard it as an exercise, really. I think an awareness of death gives a little bit of spice to life."

Her worst moment was when she heard the news of the recent bomb that killed eight soldiers travelling on a bus along the road to Omagh. She was convinced that one of her sons was in or near the bus. She regards it as an outrage that soldiers in Northern Ireland are not flown by helicopter to and from the airport and is bitter about what she sees as negligence on the part of the authorities. "I think they don't give a damn, quite frankly. They're just blasé about the whole thing."

"The television cameras make it worse. If they weren't there these people wouldn't be half as outrageous as they are. When I see the cameras homing in on bits of body I think about the relatives watching. It's bad enough knowing your son is dead but knowing he has been blown up in this appalling way and that there's probably nothing left of him is too awful."

Her feelings for the relatives of the victims of this civil warfare extend to the mothers of the IRA. "I know exactly how that mother felt who had two sons killed recently. They may have been IRA murderers but they were mur-

dered themselves. It's always the women who are left holding the bodies, the dead bodies. It's up to the women to get together and stop this mayhem. Women are very powerful if they really get going."

She finds the situation in Ireland all the worse because "basically they're a very kind, friendly people apart from a handful of complete nut cases". Much of the problem, she believes, is that "the English don't understand the Celtic mentality. When I see politicians on television saying we're getting on top of the IRA, I think if they said that to me I'd say to myself 'we'll see'. They just inflame the situation. I do think Celts are very, very short-tempered."

"I got a foul temper and I can go up the wall in one second flat. Literally, under this veneer of civilization there's this terrible violence."

"The IRA women are unbelievably vicious. You only have to look at the television to see that. When those two soldiers were ambushed at that IRA funeral it was the women in the crowd who were shouting 'Kill them!'."

She is still a practising Christian — "I believe there's a God and I hope he's looking after us, particularly my sons in Ireland" — but she none the less feels that the Church has much to answer for. "There's no Christianity in Ireland. The Catholics flock to church and the Protestants flock to church but it's all churchianity. There's just no compassion about the place. There's an awful lack of culture and love."

One of her sons has constructed a montage of coloured photographs showing the street art of Ulster, chilling wall paintings of flags and weapons and masked men with piercing slogans such as "Victory to the IRA". She keeps it under her spare bed and mourns the fact that such artistic talent is not put to more creative use.

"I think it's only the excitement of Northern Ireland that keeps them going," she says of her soldier sons. "It's a funny thing but we don't actually discuss it — except for the occasional jaunt around the graveyards..."



Death, the constant companion: a soldier at the spot in Omagh where an explosion killed eight men in a bus

'They're a very kind, friendly people apart from a handful of nut cases'

It's Attwell, but can it be art?

In a hushed London art gallery off St James's, a dealer is reverently unwrapping a dusty 1929 painting. "There," he breathes. "The original artwork." I look down, and see a green bath, occupied by a coy tot with a topknot. Doggerel begins to unroll in my mind with terrible inevitability:

*Remember — don't forget!
Never leave the bathroom wet...*

I am transported back to childhood, to dark brick houses in Battersea, to the apple-cheeked and grinning, dominated tens of thousands of British bathrooms for 50 years: a straw poll produced four out of five grown men able unhesitatingly to continue the rhyme:

*... Nor leave the soap still
in the water
That's a thing you never
ought to.*

It was, says Chris Beetles: "A Moses tablet for middle-class ablutions."

Mabel Lucie Attwell, who died in 1964, has a great deal to answer for. Not only her bathroom plaque, but thousands of postcards featured those same children with fat legs, short frilly skirts, unnaturally red cheeks and saucy or sentimental captions. Like them or

The deeper significance of fat tots and fatuous doggerel



An Attwell postcard: "What's the use of a perfect day when you can't have a perfect night?"

not, they have become part of our 20th-century culture. Dr Beetles is an unashamed if rather unlikely fan of Mabel Lucie Attwell: despite his track record as a comedy partner of Rob Buckman in *The Pink Medicine Show*, there is no trace of irony in his devotion. As a specialist in illustration, he has particular respect for her bookwork, such as the famous edition of *Peter Pan*. But he also defends the blatant sentimentality of her

popular postcards of chubby tots. "Yes, sentimentality is a recurring adverse criticism of her work. But her observation of children is beautifully accurate, and as for the fat legs and cheeks and big shoes, she simply caricatured all the most appealing things about children."

Attwell's long years of fame are linked to two important phenomena. One was the emergence, around the turn of the century, of the London Sketch Club, with illustrators bringing a new look of bold, confident outlines and blocks of clear colour. The other factor in her success, though, was a social one: the period from the First World War to the Fifties saw an emerging idea of childhood as a special and blessed state. Victorian notions of sin had gone, and modern theories

about children's complexity had not yet arrived. In between lay a time of innocence. What is more, it is a time from which adults are reluctant exiles. It is no accident that J.M. Barrie so admired her: Attwell catered consciously for Peter Pan, "I draw mainly for adults," she said once. "I see the child in an adult, then I draw the adult as a child." Hence the captions like "An' you know what men are!", or "What's the use of a perfect day when you can't have a perfect night?" Adult love affairs are acted out by saucy children; but the implication is not, according to Beetles, unhealthy. Perish the thought. "It is just that the use of the child image lends an innocence to our own relationships. It's a very gentle, slightly silly way of expressing feelings, which the British never have been very good at."

Mabel Lucie Attwell was a devoted mother; but her own childhood was no idyll. She was the ninth of 10 children of a Mile End butcher, a strict homeopathist. Her parents seem not to have noticed her much in the crowd. She recalled sad memories of praying in the lavatory that her mother would like her, and longed to have a doll of her own. The lonely child grew into a gawky adolescent; it was marriage, and especially motherhood, which suddenly provided her emotions with an outlet. "All my paintings are the outcome of quaint and beautiful things I have seen at tucking-up time... it is then that I see deep into their little minds, and I am grateful for having the receptiveness of brain to retain the dainty secrets I have seen."

I left Beetles happily turning the pages of an old Attwell annual. Twinkling the pixie and Fairy Pippinny-quick, I noticed we were sitting around on teatime. I was unmoved. But a little boy was sitting on a fence:

*The hours are full of lovely things
To please a little lad
But oh! The nicest thing of all*

*Is sitting on the garden wall
Watching out for Dad.* There was a look on his little pencilled face that made me blink back a tear. I made my excuses, and left.

Libby Purves

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Mabel Lucie Attwell, by Chris Beetles, is this week published by Pavilion Books (£12.95). An exhibition of Attwell's work opens at Chris Beetles Gallery, Ryder Street, London SW1 on September 20.

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Break for the better

For those with aspirations to make the world a better place, a free brochure called *Natural Breaks* is available from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, 36 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0EU (0491 39766). On offer are "holidays" as diverse as resurfacing river footpaths and creating floating islands for nesting ducks — at a cost of between £25 and £35 a week for basic board and lodging.

For those wanting to do good works in more style, check out the Trusthouse Forte Country Pursuits breaks, which cost from around £90 per person per night (01-567 3444).

Crashing course

Yet another course aimed at helping career women crash through "the glass ceiling" that keeps them from the top takes place next Wednesday. The National Advisory Centre on Careers for Women is collaborating with New Directions for Women to offer a full day of career planning. It is intended more for the inquisitive woman looking for a window into the working world than for high fliers, and the modest cost (£37, including coffee, lunch and tea) bears this out. Contact Careers for Women, 8th floor, Artillery House, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RT (tel 01-799 2129).

Quote me...



"I really wondered whether I had the time to get married — because a husband, and children, do take time. Then came the political question — would it be harmful or not? I thought, it can be looked at both ways: if you don't marry, people can turn round and say, 'Is she neurotic?' If you do get married, you might lose the martyr's image." *Banazir Bhutto*

Victoria McKee



Share the earth.

In Mindanao in the Philippines, the tribal people whose ancestors grew maize on the hillsides, believe land is a gift of God to human beings.

They cannot understand why they were displaced by settlers who gave them beads and axes to "borrow" their land.

Christian Aid is giving funds to a villagers' organisation that is working for the return of their land.

In southern Ethiopia, Christian Aid is helping 550 families return to farming by providing oxen on credit and new drought-resistant and early-maturing seed.

In El Salvador, in the midst of the civil strife, Christian Aid supports several

thousand refugees who have returned to clear their land for cultivation and re-build wattle-and-daub huts.

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TALKBACK

Dinah Hall,
Elm Bank Gardens,
London SW13

I wonder how the women employers featured in your Good Nanny Guide (August 29-September 2) would react if told that as part of their job they were expected to "babysit" the office three nights a week and three weekends out of four? Trained nannies are just as "professional" as their employers, and should be treated as such. They do a full working day. Why, then, should they be expected to work such outrageous additional hours?

I write, incidentally, not as a disgruntled nanny but a fair-minded employer.

Dr Helena Fox,
The Maudsley Hospital,
Denmark Hill,
London SE5

I felt concerned after reading excerpts of the Good Nanny

Guide. In order to get myself this commodity — "a good nanny" — I am advised to do this or ask that. Whilst a lot of this is helpful, being caring and affectionate are useful qualities only if they can be directed towards my child.

There seemed little space for the fact that parents are employing a human being to look after their (presumably) human offspring.

As psychiatrist and mother, I use my own questionnaire and interview technique. I look for signs that might indicate the quality of attachment between the girl and my child and her ability to be a good attachment figure.

A good enough choice of a nanny may only be the one where a mother is prepared to share her unique privilege of attachment to her child with another woman. She has to look for someone as good as herself.

MEDIA & MARKETING

Battle for the TV magazines

The vultures are circling around two British magazine goliaths, *Radio Times* and *TV Times*. The *Mail on Sunday* is planning a television listings section to be published within its *You* magazine. Rupert Murdoch and Robert Maxwell have dummies for their own television magazines, to be published separately or as newspaper supplements.

And Tony Elliott, publisher of the London listings magazine *Time Out*, is the David who has been poking *Radio Times* and *TV Times* in the eye for years now. He plans a 16 or 32-page TV and radio listings section, to make *Time Out* a weekly must buy for middle class Londoners.

OPINION

Geoffrey Cannon

The BBC and ITV, publishers of *Radio Times* and *TV Times*, know their game is up. They have already formed a joint company to publish *The Listener*, obviously set up for a joint BBC-ITV programme journal, and BBC Enterprises has purchased Redwood, the free magazine publishing house, with the intention of diversifying into lucrative ephemera loosely based on television programmes. The stage is set for the BBC and ITV to launch "TV and Radio Times".

The reason for these convulsions is that a Home Office White Paper, due out in a month or so, is confidently expected to propose that the BBC/ITV copyright on programme information, on which *Radio Times* and *TV Times* are based, be freed. Mrs Thatcher, who rarely misses an opportunity to sandbag broadcasters, is known to want a free market of programme information.

Television magazines are rich pickings. In the USA, *TV Guide* made Walter Annenberg into a multi-millionaire. In Germany, Axel Springer used *Horst* as a means to promote his commercial TV holdings. Jean Prosvet propped up *Paris Match* with the profits from *Télé 7 Jours*

Next week the sleek, glossy motoring press will suffer the intrusion of a pushy, brassy newcomer. The new arrival is a tabloid, *Auto Express*.

Like several recent bombshells on the British publishing scene, it has German origins. Selling at 40p and guaranteeing a circulation of 250,000 from the start, it plans the same invasion of motor magazine territory that titles like *Prima*, *Best* and *Bella* have made in the women's market.

It looks unlikely anything else in the motoring field, with big black headlines and tightly packed, busy pages of news and features. A £3 million advertising budget should give it a good start. But opinions differ about its long-term prospects.

Its sire is a 2½-year-old product of the huge Axel Springer publishing empire. *Auto Bild*, which has had great success in Germany, now selling 900,000 a week. An Italian version called *Auto Oggi* has already been launched, and a French edition, *Auto Plus*, is imminent.

Springer was searching for a British partner last year at the same time as the magazine section of United Newspapers, owner of the *Daily Express*, was looking at ways of expanding its motoring coverage. "I approached them," says the chief executive of United Magazines, Andrew Shanks. "But they were looking away." They signed a contract last spring, sharing costs and rewards equally.

Shanks does not call his new project a motoring magazine. "I prefer to think of it as a magazine for men and women who have an interest in motoring," he refers frequently to the number of driving licence holders in Britain with the use of a car. "If I could only just get 2 per cent of those (440,000), people would consider me very clever."

What are his chances? The circulation of existing motoring magazines varies from a top figure of around 135,000 for *What Car?* to just over 40,000 for *Practical Motorist*. *Autocar* and *Motor* shared the traditional enthusiast's middle ground at 55,000-60,000 until they were merged by Haymarket Publications last week. Haymarket's plan to make this merged 95p weekly the dominant motoring force with a circulation of more than 100,000 is now under threat from *Auto Express*.

"Motor magazines serve two different markets," Shanks says. "People buy them when they are changing cars, to clue themselves up about prices and models. The other market is for the enthusiasts, who have a high level of interest and knowledge and who may well be in the trade."

A tabloid newcomer aims to attract the average motorist. But can it overcome the British attitude to the car? Pearson Phillips reports



Express team: John Smyth (left) and Andrew Shanks with the dummy

"Our investigations show that there is also a huge latent interest in things to do with motoring on the part of people who are not enthusiasts but who could be driving on the roads every day of their lives. We shall cover everything that affects this person, keeping him informed about traffic, telling him how to get the best deals out of the service stations, how to

finance his car buying, how to drive safely, what to do when difficulties crop up.

"We shan't be too technical, but there will be accurate, practical hints as well as professionally organized car tests and model comparisons. Above all, the emphasis will be on people."

There will be no motor sport, except in relation to lifestyles or the pref-

erences of the racing stars. Shanks hopes that his mixture will attract women. "One-fifth of the German readership are women."

United Magazines - which also publishes *Punch* - has picked a journalist rather than a technician as editor. John Smyth was recruited from the *Mail on Sunday's* magazine. *You*. Before that he was deputy editor at *News of the World*.

He says he has "a gut feeling as a journalist that there is a market for interesting, readable features about motoring. We are not aiming at the man who is in love with his car, but for men and women whose main desire is to transport themselves from A to B as cheaply, comfortably and safely as possible."

Smyth's team of 20, many recruited from the technical press, sit in a large open-plan office next to one of United Magazine's more specialized publications, the heavy metal journal *Kerrang*.

Rivals in the specialist magazine world are, predictably, casting doubts on the whole enterprise. Peter Jackson, who has edited the AA's *Drive* magazine, which set out with similar aims, and now runs Grayling Publishing, predicts that *Auto Express* is "heading for an oil slick. The British experience is that upmarket products flourish. Down-market publications end up in the breaker's yard."

Eric Verdon-Roe, a director of Haymarket Publishing who arranged the *Autocar/Motor* merger, accepts that *Auto Express* seems "bright, breezy and aimed at motoring magazine readers who are not enthusiasts". But he says there is "a million-dollar question: does such a reader exist?"

He appears to be in Germany. "But there is a difference between attitudes to the motor car in Germany and Britain," Verdon-Roe says. "In Germany your status in society is judged by the type of motor car you drive. In Britain, an enormous number of people take an enormous pride in having motor cars altogether."

"Also, Germany is in the middle of a European road network. The German will get up early and drive to the Swiss ski slopes. Touring by car is still an important element of German life. It's vital for him to know, for instance, where the traffic hold-ups will be. In Britain, we all know they'll be on the M4. There is a passion for motor cars here, but only a small section of the population have it."

Auto Express ran headlong into the general British motoring attitude when researching a feature for an early issue. "What car do you drive?" it asked Willie Rushton. "Can't remember," replied the professional Englishman. "But I think it's Japanese."

To back a book

Publishers find a recipe for profit in partnership

Everyone is familiar with *The Guinness Book of Records* and the *Shell Motoring Guide*. But an increasingly wide range of books is being published with the imprimatur of a commercial logo and the aid of corporate finance.

The Midland Bank Guide: Women and Money, to be published this month, is the latest foray by Penguin into commercially sponsored books. "We provide the author and the production costs," Penguin's Sarah Hodgson says. "The company then takes vast quantities to mail to customers. It's profitable, and our brief is to do more of it."

Penguin's first sponsored book was the *Lloyds Bank Tax Guide*, published last year and now likely to become a hardy annual. Initial uncertainty about whether the bank's name should appear in the title was dispelled when market research showed that its inclusion gave the book greater authority.

Sponsors can also help with production costs that would otherwise make a book prohibitively expensive. At Ebury Press - where commercial sponsorship is an established routine - there were considerable difficulties in sorting out the finance for a book written by Lady Macdonald, wife of the clan chief, who has a restaurant on the Isle of Skye. The solution was found by enticing Terry's, the chocolate manufacturer, into putting up money for production. The result, *Lady Macdonald's Chocolate Book*, appears this autumn, complete with the Terry's logo.

As far as companies are concerned, sponsored books offer a particular advantage over other forms of advertising - timespan. "Television advertising makes a bigger splash," says Charles Merullo, of Ebury. "But books stay in people's homes for two or three years. This is what makes sponsorship so valuable."

Kate Finch

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SALES MANAGER

Sita Productions is a well established and dynamic Production Company providing a broad range of effective business communications services to clients both in the UK and abroad. Sita has extensive in-house facilities serving both its corporate clients and the needs of its broadcast division - Sita Television.

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In view of the postal strike, please fax cv for the attention of Richard Wessley Smith, Sita Productions, Gloucestershire, Fax No. 0295 817471.

MEDIA & MARKETING

Hattersley warns of media curbs

Labour's deputy leader tells Richard Evans of his startling plans to outlaw more 'foreign' ownership of radio and television

With the final countdown to next month's launch of the White Paper now underway, it is good to be able to report that the Labour Party will have its own media policy prepared by party conference time.

Unfortunately, the party conference in question will be the one taking place in October 1989.

A generous interpretation of Labour's approach to the huge changes about to swamp broadcasting is that Neil Kinnock and Co. are "playing it long". But as the party's broadcasting committee has not met for months, there is evidence to suggest Labour has been a touch remiss.

However, if there were any doubts about the kind of opposition which Douglas Hurd can expect when he unveils the Government's long-awaited blueprint next month, they are quickly dispelled by Labour's deputy leader, Roy Hattersley.

And if only half the ideas and thoughts of Labour's best-known scribbler are written into the Labour policy document, they will startle the world's media moguls.

He is "personally committed" to barring foreign ownership of British newspapers, television and radio, and would introduce tougher monopolies and mergers legislation to make it virtually impossible for large media owners to buy more newspapers—even those threatened with closure.

"I am a great deal more worried about Mr Murdoch than I am about Mr Maxwell because of Mr Murdoch's record, not simply in this country, but in the US and Australia. I'm worried about Mr Murdoch because of the standards I've seen in his newspapers."

"From him I see two things. One is a degree of political bias which, putting aside all the obsessions that Labour politicians always have, is now quite extraordinary. Secondly, there is a willingness to debate newspaper standards in order to sell newspapers. And, if those are the commercial standards he applies to newspapers, why are they not the commercial standards he applies to satellite television?"

"We have got to split up the ownership of media outlets more than is now possible under the Monopolies and Mergers Act. There is far too much concentration; the Act is too weak." Hattersley, who prepared tough monopolies and mergers proposals during the last Labour Government, added: "It is easier to prevent new acquisitions than to split up old conglomerates, so I would have legislation that made new acquisitions very much more difficult. That would include television as well as newspapers."

"Rules" for foreign ownership are also being considered. "It's a moot point whether, in a democracy, major outlets of news can be held by foreign companies—or foreigners. I don't believe that is chauvinistic—if it was, I would deplore it. There is a problem about having an international news organization which determines what the news is in one country."

While any plans to try to tamper with the concentration and nature of newspaper ownership will have to await a Labour victory at the polls, the more pressing need for Hattersley and his colleagues is to challenge the forthcoming White Paper. How would he approach the fast-moving broadcasting scene as Home Secretary?

"There has got to be a new regulatory system to deal with the satellite revolution. If we are going



Worried man: Hattersley complains of bias and a "willingness to debate"

'We have got to split up the ownership of media outlets more than is now possible'

to have 10, 15 or 25 channels, the system cannot be regulated in the way which was possible with the BBC and two independent channels and all the paraphernalia of the IBA and the Charter.

"But I take almost a diametrically opposite view from that which the Government appears to be taking, which is a minimum of regulation in terms of quality and performance. I think Lord Rees-Mogg (head of the Broadcasting Standards Council) will provide, as he is intended to, a minimal amount of control; a control which is concerned with taste and decency and not with broadcasting standards."

"I don't think you can talk about adequate broadcasting standards if you are not prepared to see some other sort of broadcasting regulation which requires companies to live up to certain standards and to observe certain criteria. Now those criteria and standards are clearly going to be abandoned."

"If we are to put out independent television contracts to the highest bidder as a commercial operation, then standards will go out of the window. What has happened with early-morning broadcasting, independent breakfast broadcasting, demonstrates that given the chance people will fill the screens with

tripe, that there is an unthinking market for the advertisements that go with with tripe and, unless you have some requirement to observe higher standards, then standards are going to deteriorate.

"The requirement to observe higher standards has got to be built in to the national broadcasting system. For satellite there has got to be a system there which requires the broadcasters to observe certain criteria—wide, loose, general, unspecific—which are either set down in the BBC Charter or in the Broadcasting Act covering the IBA."

"I have no evidence to suggest that is going to happen. As long as they do not offend the standards of Lord Rees-Mogg, it seems to me that your proprietor's programmes can contain whatever crap he chooses and I'm opposed to that."

Apart from getting the recipe for 21st century broadcasting wrong, Hattersley is convinced the Government will also hijack the new multi-channel system for party political purposes.

Hattersley said: "I have no doubt that political balance will go out of the window if regulation is run by this Government. The Government has a very, very partial view about what it is right for the Government to do and what it is respectable within the terms of freedom for the Government to require."

"I think, for instance, that the advertising for the Government which now appears on commercial TV is an affront to the standards of political balance. It may be about jobs, training, regional policy, the single (European) market in 1992. But it is all clearly geared to giving the impression that the Government and the Conservative Party are doing a good job because the visual images are very like those which advertise the Conservative Party."

"That is the negative side. The positive side of the Government's lack of standards in this matter is their equivocation of their prospects and their future with the national interest: things like Gibraltar. The Government is prepared to suppress broadcasts which they think are against the Government's interest because they think the Government's interest is the national interest, and they think the Government's interest and the Tory Party interest cannot be separated."

"We are going to get all that pressure unless we have a body which stands between the Government and the individual broadcasters. Unless you have a Lord Thomson and an IBA which are prepared to stand out against them, the political balance whilst the Government is in power is going to be tilted in the most undemocratic way."

BYLINES

Beeb lost for words

The BBC's information division was characteristically parsimonious with information this week about a forthcoming restructuring decreed by Howell James, the director of corporate affairs, brought in a year ago to improve the Beeb's rather tarnished image.

The division's head, Peter Rosier, whose forthright management style has not always made him popular with his staff, returned from holiday last week to be offered a sideways move to a new post, responsible only for the BBC's corporate press office and its regional press operations and not for the armies of BBC television and radio publicity officers.

His boss, controller of information Michael Bunce, takes over responsibility as "head of establishment" for hiring and firing staff.

Rosier, whose capacity for hard work and abrasiveness were sources of equal wonder to his subordinates, enjoyed a rapid rise from humble publicity officer to ruler of a considerable empire before James's arrival, but is said to have made some powerful enemies on the way. "If you dish it out, you've got to learn to take it," he told a colleague philosophically last week.

London calling

The loss-making *Illustrated London News* is about to grasp the nettle and turn itself into what its title suggests it should always have been, a magazine about London.

Proprietor James Sherwood, the shipping millionaire, is looking for partners to take a 50 per cent stake and talks are being held with both the Telegraph group and the American Metrocorp, publisher of "city magazines" like New York's *Manhattan Inc.* Managing director Tony Price says the ILN needs the resources of a major publisher to help it develop as a London title, rather than remaining an also-ran among national magazines. But Telegraph managing director Andrew Knight says he has yet to see any figures and that a deal sounds "highly unlikely" if Metrocorp's interest is serious. Although the Telegraph's long-term aim is diversification, Knight says the company still needs a period of consolidation and that small ventures like the ILN demand too much management time.

High stakes

Games enthusiasts are to get their own magazine for the first time since *Games & Puzzles* folded in 1982. Brian Walker, a former professional backgammon player turned journalist on *Games Trade Monthly*, is launching *Games International* next month. He hopes for a circulation of 20,000 among players of family games, war

games and role playing games, with financial backing from an Irish enthusiast and distribution help from Virgin. The games market, he says, is worth millions and the potential is enormous: one annual games convention in Essen, West Germany attracts 65,000 visitors.

Briefing . . .

The new director of the Broadcasting Research Unit is to be Dr Timothy Leggat, currently production controller of the Royal Shakespeare Company and a surprising choice, since he has no background in media studies. On the other hand he was a distinguished Cambridge social scientist and fellow of King's College before making his unusual career move and switching to arts administration. . . . Motor manufacturers resent the high cost of television advertising and prefer national newspapers and magazines for advertising new car launches, according to Yershon Media Management. But that didn't stop their expenditure on television advertising going up by 19 per cent in the 12 months to June. . . . Radio 4 controller Michael Green, often criticized for stealing big name presenters from television rather than growing his own, is looking for new voices to add to the repertoire company of about 100 regular contributors to the network. A new series of 10-minute talks, *First Person*, is being launched to showcase the "voices of tomorrow". . . .

Nick Higham



Journalist, Children's Programmes

TV-am is established as the brightest and best in breakfast television and our children's slot is already an award winner.

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Breakfast Television Centre

TV-am plc

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London NW1 8EF

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Fax: (0444) 440553 Tel: 0444 440077

We are part of the KAE Group (KAE Development, Mintel & IIS)



EDITOR

The British Property Federation seeks an Editor for its publication "Property Journal", which is issued every two months to members and senior people outside the Federation.

The person appointed will be responsible for all aspects of publication. In addition, he/she will provide an information service for members and undertake associated administrative duties.

Salary £17,000 p.a. The Federation operates a generous pension scheme.

Suitably qualified persons are invited to submit applications, setting out details of qualifications and experience. Applications should be marked "Editor" and addressed to the Director General, British Property Federation, 35 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY (Facsimile 01-834 3442) by 8 October.

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Please write or fax full C.V. to Fay L. Win, Marketing Director, City Centre Cable, 57-59 Gloucester Place, London W1 3HP.

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Fax: 01 935 7979.

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WORLD OF ANTIQUES

A bumper crop of grandeur and magnificence moves to market

Autumn is the favourite time for country house-and-contents sales around Britain. Huon Mallalieu considers the wide range of sales about to take place this season

Early autumn has become a favourite season for country house-and-contents sales. This year a bumper and varied crop ranges in grandeur from The Cottage, Isfield, Sussex, where Phillips complete a two-day dispersal today, to Harewood House, where items "surplus to requirements", including a four-post bed and other magnificent pieces by Chippenale, will be offered by Christie's on October 3.

Among the other sales on the premises are two on September 19, one at The Grove, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, held by Bonhams; the other at Scend Green House, near Melksham, Wiltshire, the property of Sir Mathew and Lady Thorpe, organised by Christie's. The Grove is a lovely example of *rus in urbe*, and was the home of Charles Darwin's widow before passing to Charles Armstrong, a brewer with a passion for Sevens.

The next day Phillips will be in action at Cantley Hall, near Doncaster, and on September 26 Christie's offers furniture, pictures, silver, porcelain, glass and prints at Lyegrove, in Badminton, Avon.

There are three more autumnal events staged by Christie's: at Mr and Mrs John Pollock's Mountbatten House in Navan, County Neath on September 28 and 29; at the late Mrs Dent-Brocklehurst's home, Hawling Manor near Cheltenham on October 10; and at the late Mrs Borthwick-Norton's property, Southwick House, in Farnham, Hampshire on October 17 and 18.

The most unusual country house sale this year is of the former contents of Henham Hall, the seat of the Earls of Strathmore in Suffolk, which was demolished as part of a family feud in 1953.

Luckily many of the Rous family heirlooms survived, and

their sale, conducted by Prudential Auctioneers between October 10 and 12 in a marquee on the site of the old Hall, will help fund the running of the estate, and perhaps the building of a new seat for the 6th Earl and his large family. There is some good 18th-century furniture, and some impressive 19th-century ceremonial and presentational silver.

A sale which will share some of the characteristics of a house sale, although not on the premises, will be held by Holloway's of Banbury

Anyone under the delusion that British artists are amateur will have a pleasing awakening in store

on October 11. It has several portraits and other paintings from the Blencowe family which has been established nearby at Marston St Lawrence since the time of Henry VI. Sir John (painted by J. B. Closterman) was a judge under William III a Queen Anne, and his son William was the official decipherer of letters - a sort of one-man ENIGMA.

For more than 50 years, their local church has had the loan of one of Gustave Dore's rare oil paintings, of Moses in the Bull-rushes. Now the family is selling it at an estimate of up to £15,000.

The antiques fair business continues to thrive, with the 34th Cheltenham autumn event at the Pittville Pump Room from September 15 to 17, the 38th Northern Fair at Harrogate between September 29 and October 5, the 9th Park Lane Hotel Antiques Fair from October 3 to 10 and the first 20th Century British Art Fair, at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, from September 30 to October 4.

Anyone still under the delusion that British artists are amateur compared with those of the Continent and the US, will have a pleasurable awakening. The prejudice derives largely from the inverted snobbery of such British art historians as Roger Fry and Anthony Blunt, and is just not tenable.

A mainly-British 20th-century artist who has almost completely disappeared from view is Wilfred De Gheyn (1870-1951). He refused nomination as PRA in 1944, and he was a close friend of Sargent. His landscapes deserve just as much appreciation, and it is probable that we will hear more of him after the opening of a major exhibition at David Messum, 34 St George Street, London W1, on October 19.

In October, after the dry summer months, the poor critic can hardly wait the West End of an evening without a glass of champagne being thrust at him. The almost-nightly exhibition



Two of the works on sale this autumn: "The Gooseander" by T. Pennant, a hand coloured copper engraving, dated 1766, above, and left, "Christmas", an etching by Robin Tanner RA, 1929

openings include the annual watercolour show at Spink's, King Street, St James's from October 3 to 28; prints of ducks and drakes (with a few swans) at the Schuster gallery in 14 Maddox Street, W1 from October 4 to 14; a major show of sporting paintings, notably a Stubbs of a stallion and a mare, at Ackermann's new premises, 33 New Bond Street, October 5 to 29; British Illustrators, 1800-1988, at Chris Beetles, 10 Ryder Street, St James's from October 12 to 28; and a memorial tribute to the fine traditional etcher Robin Tanner, who died in May, at Robin Garton, 34-42 New Bond Street, from October 17. Mercury Antiques are offering a selection of English ceramics between October 11 and October 22 in Ladbroke Grove, W11.

Christie's moves into its new auction season in King Street on September 19 with an exhibition of diamond betrothal rings rang-

ing down six centuries. Then on October 5 they hold the first auction entirely devoted to finger rings since 1937. Christie's will also have two days, September 29 and 30, devoted to the sale of architectural books.

Two other fields which are well served this month are textiles and garden furniture. Textile sales are at Christie's South Kensington, on September 20 (and again on October 4) and Phillips on September 29. Garden furnishings are at Phillips on September 20 and Sotheby's in Sussex on September 28.

On September 23, Phillips have a silver sale devoted to the work of one family of smiths, the Victorian Fox clan, and suitably it includes a fox mask stirrup cup

September is well served with the sale of textiles and garden furnishings

made by two of them in 1859. There is more silver and jewellery in a Beames sale in Torquay on October 5.

"The aim of the sale," says a Christie's press release for October 6, "is to present the evolution of Russian culture and taste as it is reflected in all branches of art." In fact the aim, as of all sales, is to make money, and any presentation of Russian culture from Peter the Great to the early Revolutionary period is second to that.

Lastly, Christie's in South Kensington has model steam engines on October 14, and Sotheby's will offer porcelain from the British Rail Pension Fund's holdings on October 18.

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INFORMATION SERVIC

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FILMS

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BABETTE'S FEAST (U): One of Karen Allen's most memorable roles as the young nun who falls for a French priest, directed by Peter Jackson. (116 min). Cannon Pictures (01-439 4470). Progs 2.40, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rental (01-837 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

BROADCAST NEWS (15): Sick drama about network TV journalism from James L. Brooks (Terms of Endearment) with William Hurt, Albert Brooks, Holly Hunter as the trio caught in a jumble of professional and romantic problems. (132 min).

CANNON TOLBIAC (15): Sylvester Stallone vacates a Buddhist monastery to spring a Green Beret buddy from Soviet imprisonment in Afghanistan. A strident sequel, strewn with battles and blood. (102 min). Cannon Pictures (01-439 4470). Progs 2.40, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rental (01-837 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

COMING TO AMERICA (15): Eddie Murphy as a pampered foreign prince who comes to America to select his own bride. A botched comic venture with a touch of sweetness, directed by John Landis. (116 min).

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DARK EYES (PG): Soviet director Nikita Mikhalkov's superb adaptation of Chekhov. Filmed in Italy starring Marcello Mastroianni, with Silvana Mangano and Mariella Neri. (116 min). Curzon Mayfair (01-499 3737). Progs 1.15, 3.30, 5.00, 8.30.

DROWNING BY NUMBERS (18): Three generations of women, all called Cissie Colpitts, become involved with a corner, who knows about the deaths of their husbands in deep water (118 min). (117-727 4048). Progs 1.30, 3.45, 6.20, 8.45.

AND GOD CREATED WOMAN (18): Only the little connects Roger Vadim's new film with the scandalous success of 1955. Rebecca De Munnich plays a girl determined to make a success of life. Cannon Pictures (01-437 3681). Progs 1.30, 3.50, 6.10, 8.30.

THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST (18): Martin Scorsese's long, controversial, stylistically justified version of Nikos Kazantzakis's novel. With Willem Dafoe as an anguished Jesus, Harvey Keitel as Judas, and Barbara Hershey as Mary Magdalene. (183 min).

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 24

PHOENIX
(a) Having to do with seals of warships, from the Greek phos. Latin places a seal. Latin: "My darling, treated to her seal near her phosic marmosa."

FRUGIVOROUS
(a) Fruit-eating, from the Latin frugis + vorare. "Considerative anatomy teaches us that man resembles frugivorous animals in everything, and carnivorous in nothing, he has neither claws nor teeth to seize his prey, nor distinct and pointed teeth to tear the living flesh."

GAMMADON
(a) A decorative pattern formed of repetitions or combinations of the shape of Greek capital letter gamma, i.e. swastika or swastika-like. "This word Gammadon was in the past applied often to the patterns on silk as to the figures wrought on gold and silver."

BOTTLE-HOLDER
(a) A second, backer, towel-flapper, blood-stauncher at old-fashioned prize-fighting: the name survives with two archaic and modern meanings. "An old bruiser makes a good bottle-holder."

CANNON TOLBIAC (15): Sylvester Stallone vacates a Buddhist monastery to spring a Green Beret buddy from Soviet imprisonment in Afghanistan. A strident sequel, strewn with battles and blood. (102 min). Cannon Pictures (01-439 4470). Progs 2.40, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rental (01-837 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

RAMBO III (15): Sylvester Stallone vacates a Buddhist monastery to spring a Green Beret buddy from Soviet imprisonment in Afghanistan. A strident sequel, strewn with battles and blood. (102 min). Cannon Pictures (01-439 4470). Progs 2.40, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rental (01-837 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

THE SICILIAN (15): Michael Cimino's latest extravaganza - an epic account of the post-war outlaw leader Salvatore Giuliano, with an odd touch of international players (Christopher Lambert as Giuliano, Josep Antón as a Mafia chieftain) (148 min). (117-727 4048). Progs 1.30, 3.45, 6.20, 8.45.

A WORLD APART (PG): Barbara Hershey, John May and Linda Mulst star in Chris Menzies's film about the effects of apartheid on a small girl (112 min). (117-727 4048). Progs 1.30, 3.45, 6.20, 8.45.

THE ADAMANT CROCHTON: J.M. Barrie's other desert island play, with Peter Dinklage and Linda Mulst, directed by Peter Dinklage. (112 min). (117-727 4048). Progs 1.30, 3.45, 6.20, 8.45.

BAG LADY: See caption. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (01-748 3354). Tube: Hammersmith. Opens tonight 7.30-8.30pm, then Mon-Sat 8-9pm, 25-27.

BUSBY D'AMBOIS: David Threlkeld plays the flamboyant hero in Chapman's Jacobean tragedy set in the French court of Henri III. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-928 7610). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30pm and Sat 7.30pm. Mat 4pm, 25-27.

DRIVING MISS DAISY: Wendy Hiller, Barry Foster, Clarke Peters in this year's Pulitzer prizewinner, the relationship between an elderly Jewess and her black chauffeur. Fragile material but fine acting. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2653). Tube: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 8-9pm, 25-27.

LETITIA AND LOVAGE: Maggie Smith and Margaret Tzeng wage a war of attrition against the modern world in Peter Shaffer's new comedy. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3687). Tube: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 8-9pm, 25-27.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Dennis Cavan and Enrie Belcourt in magnificent staged revival. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (01-538 5889). Tube: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 8-9pm, 25-27.

SUGAR BABIES: Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller star in nostalgic show variety popular on Broadway. Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 8688). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 8-9pm, 25-27.

A TOUCH OF DARKNESS: How Francis Durbridge thriller puts William Franklyn in danger of his life from international espionage. Wyndham Theatre, Whitehall, SW1 (01-871 1119). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 8-9pm, 25-27.

UNCLE VANYA: Michael Gambon, Jonathan Pryce and Imelda Staunton in a splendid revival. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 8688). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 8-9pm, 25-27.

LONG RUNNERS: And then there were none. Strand Theatre (01-836 2680). ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt. Cottesloe Theatre (01-734 1189). ★ Cries New London Theatre (01-405 0072). cc 01-404 4079.

THE SUMMER OF THE WICKED: Sorcha Cusack stars in the one-woman show as a derelict woman - her only possession being the truth. She draws strong images from her fragmented sense of reality to reveal her own personal tragedy - which must remain a secret. Staged recently at the Edinburgh Festival where it was awarded a Fringe First. *Bag Lady* is directed by Jude Kelly.

Bag Lady, by Frank McGuinness (above), writer of *Obsession The Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* and *The Factory Girls*, has his London premiere tonight at the Riverside Studios (see listing). Sorcha Cusack stars in the one-woman show as a derelict woman - her only possession being the truth. She draws strong images from her fragmented sense of reality to reveal her own personal tragedy - which must remain a secret. Staged recently at the Edinburgh Festival where it was awarded a Fringe First. *Bag Lady* is directed by Jude Kelly.

Wholesome harmonies

Though the temptation is strong, it may be a little unfair to lump Belinda Carlisle (right) with the Kyiles, Sinittas and Tiffanys who between them have made "fimo rock" such a phenomenon of 1988. For behind the healthy, wholesome image and such tenderized chunks of pop fodder as her transatlantic No.1 "Heaven Is A Place On Earth" there stretches a grittier history. Born in Hollywood, the eldest of six children, on August 17, 1958, she charted a wayward course from high school cheerleader to crop-haired singer with the American punkette group, the Go-Gos. Success opened the door to a fast lifestyle which she embraced with alarming zeal. However, she eventually turned her back on this to become a health enthusiast, and following the demise of the Go-Gos in 1984, she launched a solo career. Success came quickly in America, but it took her longer to crack the UK market, and apart from a brief appearance at a Prince's Trust gala at the London Palladium last December, tonight is her British stage debut. Belinda Carlisle's tour starts tonight, tomorrow and Saturday, at Hammersmith Odeon W6 (01-748 4681) 7.30pm, 8.15pm, 8.45pm; Sunday, Manchester Apollo (061 236 9922); Monday, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590); next Wednesday and Thursday, Hammersmith Odeon; Saturday, September 24, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Monday, September 26, BIC, Bournemouth (0202 22122); Tuesday, September 27, Cornwall Coliseum (072681 4004).



David Sinclair

OUT OF TOWN

BATH: ★ Dry Rot: Brian Rix returns to the stage to drop his trousers in this old Whitfield play. Theatre Royal, Savoy, Bath (0225 650656). Mon-Fri 7.30pm, 8.15pm, 8.45pm.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: ★ A Tale of Two Cities Cambridge Theatre Co. joins forces with the Tynes company for a musical attack on the French Revolution, with Christian Burgh and Pauline Baker. Type Theatre, Westgate Street (091 232 0899). Mon-Fri 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, 4.27-50.

CONCERTS

LUNCHTIME

★ **TELEMAN TEXT**: Teleman's Die Zeit, No. 1 of his Moral Cantatas, is performed by the Lescaillo Ensemble, who immediately follow it with a 1st Violin Sonata for cello and continuo. St Anne's Theatre, Greenwich St, London EC2 (01-373 5888). 1.10-1.50pm, free.

★ **RICKETTS RECITAL**: The pianist Ricketts plays *Harmonies du Soir*, Liszt's penultimate *Etude d'Execution*.

Transcendental, Chopin's Fantasy Op 49

★ **STAN TRACEY/ALAN SKIDMORE**: The two elder statesmen combine for a piano/saxophone duet. Jazz Centre, Newington Green, London N16 (01-389 4338). 8.00pm, 23.

★ **BIG JOE DOUGHERTY**: Return of the much-loved boogie-woogie master. Pizzazz Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-438 8722). 8.30pm, ring for prices.

★ **CHARLES MAPHSON**: Commencing a national tour, the six-piece all-star band is accompanied by Peter Hill. Support is from the Mark Fitzgibbon Trio. Support is from the Mark Fitzgibbon Trio. Support is from the Mark Fitzgibbon Trio.

★ **GEISLE**: Peter Durrell's gripping production for Scottish Ballet. Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 482828). 7.30-9.45pm, 24-25.

★ **CUMBER FLAMENCA**: Spanish dancers, singers and musicians. Andalusian gipsy-style. Sudder's Walls, Rousay Ave, London EC1 (01-278 8816). 7.30-10pm, 23-25.

★ **KRISHNAVENI LAUSHMANNA**: A dancer in the Bharata Nattam style from Southern India. The Place, Dulux Road, London, WC1 (01-387 0031). 8-10pm, 25.

★ **ANDREW WALKER**: New paintings, both classical and symbolic, inspired by the artist's return to Scotland. Garry, 23 Camberwell Church St, London SE5 (01-708 0169). Tues-Sat 11am-2pm, and 3-7pm, free, until Oct 22.

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OPERA

★ **LA TRAVIATA**: First new production of the season at English National Opera: David Pountney's staging promises an uncompromising look at the exploitative world of the 19th-century courtesan. Mark Elder conducts a cast led by Helen Field and Arthur Davies. Coliseum, St Martins Lane, London, WC2 (01-836 3161). 7.30-10.30pm, 22-23.

★ **COSI FAN TUTTE**: David Freeman's alternative seaside production for Opera Factory back in line, thought-provoking form, with Paul Daniel conducting the London Sinfonietta. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 3191). 7-10.20pm 25-26.

★ **HUNTERS & COLLECTORS**: Age Aussie act. Intelligent rock'n'rollers hot from supporting the Trifids at the Dominion. Town & Country, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334). 7.30pm, 25-26.

★ **SLAYER**: Very extreme American speed metal band. Projects of Def Jam supreme Rick Rubin, who has produced both their albums. Not for the faint-hearted. Hammersmith, Dale End, Birmingham (021 235 4239). 7.30pm, 25.

★ **NAOQALS**: Continuing the ICA season of Romy music - *The Lord and Ladies of Little Egypt* - this all-male Indian theatre company performs the music and dance of the Punjab. Also featured tonight: the Moroccan flautist and percussionist Hassan Erjai and a performance of Algerian Rai music by Cheik Kader. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-830 3847). 8pm, 25.

★ **IMMACULATE POOLS**: Bohemian types who looked for a moment as if they were going to be hugely successful, but petered out after the one spurious hit. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-830 3847). 8pm, 25.

★ **STAN TRACEY/ALAN SKIDMORE**: The two elder statesmen combine for a piano/saxophone duet. Jazz Centre, Newington Green, London N16 (01-389 4338). 8.00pm, 23.

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KRISTIAN KROKFOR: Paintings and screenprints by a young artist. Sage Gallery, 41 Dean St, London SW3 (01-825 5684). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until Oct 8.

HENRY MOORE: Selected sculptures and drawings. Marlborough Fine Art, 8 Abchurch Lane, London W1 (01-825 5161). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until Oct 14.

THE CITY OF LONDON - 2,000 YEARS OF HISTORY: meet Tower Hill tube, 2pm, 25 (also next Wed).

LEGAL COURTS - INNS OF COURT AND LAW COURTS: meet Temple tube, 10.30am, 25 (also next Wed).

A JOURNEY THROUGH DICKENS'S LONDON: meet Holborn tube, 2.30pm, 25 (also next Wed).

BEAT RETREAT: Evening performance by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines (Commandant in Chief Fleet) House and gardens also open this week until 18th. Daily 10am-6pm.

NATIONAL GALLERY EVENING: Gallery open until 8pm with concert in Room 41 - Nigel North plays baroque and romantic guitar music and Spanish music of the 17th-18th centuries. National Gallery, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2 (01-839 3321). Free.

BRIGHTON ANTIQUE AND COLLECTORS MARKET: Regular event for amateur and professional collectors. Corn Exchange, Brighton, Sussex. 10am-5pm, 25.

WEDDING BELLES: Four days when in which to see this exhibition with traces the rise in popularity of the white wedding dress from 1840 to 1930. Roughton House Museum of Costume and Lace, Castle St, Exeter (0325 265858). Today until 10am-5.30pm, adult £1.70, child 70p. Free admission Fri.

BOOKINGS FIRST CHANCE

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS: Subscription booking for 1988/89, with 10th anniversary concert (all-Mozart programme, as for first concert in 1940). Beethoven Plus series; and programme of Brahms and Schoenberg as part of South Bank "Redundant Revolutionary" series. South Bank concert halls and Wigmore Hall. Oct-June.

ROYAL OPERA: Booking for Oct-Dec, with new productions of *Madama Butterfly* and *Macbeth*. Garden Concerts, and Welsh National Opera in *Falstaff*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066/1811).

LAST CHANCE

FRENCH PAINTINGS FROM THE USSR: First major exhibition of paintings from Russia covering three centuries, with works by Watteau, Fragonard, Renoir, Delacroix, Courbet, Manet, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Picasso. Ends Sun. National Gallery, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2 (01-839 3321).

FOLLOW THE DRUM: Exhibition of drums, drummers and drumming with music and audio-visual displays. Ends Sun. National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 (01-730 0717).

NEW YORK'S SPIT BRITCHES: USA company perform *Drums to Hira*, a mixture of fantasy, poetry and pulp fiction by Holly Hughes in collaboration with Peggy Shuey and Lois Weaver. Ends Sun.

Drill Hall Arts Centre, 18 Christie St

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

Destination the truth

TELEVISION CHOICE

● Paul Hamann's remarkable documentary, *Fourteen Days in May*, followed the last weeks in the life of a young black man, Edward Johnson, before he went to the gas chamber in the Mississippi State Penitentiary. He had been sentenced to death for killing a white town marshal but protested his innocence to the end. Johnson's English lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, has made a specialty of death row cases on the United States and this was the first one he had lost. He wonders where he went wrong. In *The Journey* (BBC1, 9.30pm) Stafford Smith returns to Johnson's home town of Walnut Grove nearly a year after the execution in an attempt to discover the truth. Despite his courteous eloquence, the white community and the police refuse to talk to him. As far as they are concerned, the case is closed. This is not the attitude of Johnson's family and friends, who are still convinced of a miscarriage of justice and only too ready to say their piece. Moreover, with what seems like an uncanny show of unanimity, they claim to know the identity of the real killer, a neighbour of Johnson's who fled town within days of the murder. Stafford Smith tracks him down to a shabby motel-rooming house in Alabama. The man is a Vietnam veteran, has a violent reputation and is armed. But Stafford Smith is determined to challenge him. In the circumstances, it is a surprisingly good-humoured encounter. Whether, as Stafford Smith suggests, it comes any nearer to clearing up the mystery of who killed the marshal of Walnut Grove, must be for the viewer to decide.



Clive Stafford Smith, the lawyer who was determined to find the real murderer in the Earl Johnson case (BBC1, 9.30pm)

● Leni Riefenstahl earned notoriety, and four years in French prison camps, as Nazi Germany's official filmmaker. *Triumph of the Will*, shot at the Nuremberg Party Congress, was both formidable propaganda and a brilliant use of the film medium. Olympia (Channel 4, 9.00pm), her study of the 1936 Berlin Olympics, is less overtly propagandist though no less brilliant. Once again she demonstrated her mastery of camerawork (particularly in

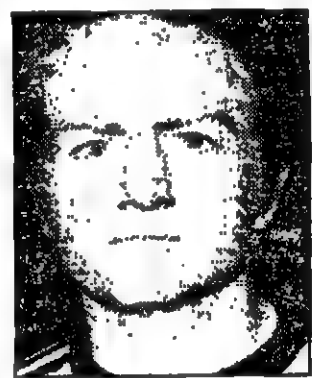
the extraordinary diving sequences) and editing. She made striking use of slow motion and paid special attention to the sound track, carefully recreating crowd noises and the panting of athletes in the studio. Goebbels was furious at the film. The black athlete, Jesse Owens, but even in Nazi Germany it would have been difficult to leave him out.

Peter Waymark

Scientific Olympics

RADIO CHOICE

● There is one graphic, layman's, sentence in *Trained to Perfection* (Radio 4, 11.00am) that, better than any of the scientific jargon that packs the programme, sums up the impact that science has had on athletics. It comes from Kevin Hickey who coaches the British Olympic boxing team, and what he says is that if the situation in 1988 is compared with what it was in 1954, Roger Bannister would have been beaten by half a lap. What Geoff Watts's report on sports science does — and does vividly — is to smash the image of the athlete labouring alone, except for his coach. It may not yet be time to bet on motor, even muscular, contraction. The guesswork has gone out of recording the rotation in a triple-twisting somersault; computers and high-speed film can establish that it is 70 degrees in an



horizontal axis and 90 degrees in a longitudinal. There are relaxation tapes to banish stomach butterflies, and ways of topping up muscular fuel deposits. There are dieticians standing by with charts of protein and carbohydrate intakes. And there are Kevin Hickey and psychologist Richard Butler, attending a training session of the British Olympic boxing team, and asking them to see each other as gorillas, panthers or eels and amend their styles accordingly (Nothing foreign about that, says Butler, because Muhammad Ali used to boast that he danced like a butterfly and stung like a bee). *Trained to Perfection* moves into Aldous Huxley territory when it discusses the possibility of muscle and tendon transplants, and raises the dread spectre of a time when sporting competition will not be between athletes but between laboratories.

Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 *Cee-fax* AM, News, weather, travel and sports bulletins
- 6.40 *Clark and McCullough in The Druggists Dilemma* (b/w). 6.55 *Weather*
- 7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Kirsty Wark and Pamela Armstrong. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 8.55 *Regional news and weather* followed by *Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers*. The story of geoffrids (r). 9.30 *Model World*. Planning model railways (r).
- 10.00 *News and weather* followed by *Look, Stranger!*. A portrait of Bill Houston who described himself as a kind of mechanized tramp (r).
- 10.25 *Children's BBC* introduced by Andy Crane beginning with *Play School*, presented by Fred Harris and Liz Watts (r). 10.50 *The Parishers*, with the voice of Leonard Rossiter (r). 10.55 *Five to Eleven* with Cyril Cusack
- 11.00 *News and weather* followed by *Arthur Negus Enjoys*. Arthur Negus and George Smith admire the collection of 18th-century Dutch flower paintings housed at Dordrecht (r). (Cee-fax) 11.30 *Cook With Clive*. Clive Connery prepares high tech (r). *News and weather* followed by *Dallas* (r). (Cee-fax) 12.50 *Cartoon* 12.55 *Regional news and weather*
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Weather. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Charlene discovers the truth about Sue's problem.
- 1.50 *Knots Landing*. This first of a new series finds Abby taken hostage by St. Claire after his assassination attempt is bungled. Starring Ted Shackelford, Joan Van Ark, Donna Mills and Joseph Chaplin

BBC2

- 6.55 *Open University: Maths — Fractions*. Ends at 7.20. 9.00 *Cartoon*
- 10.00 *The Waterloo*. Quarterfinal action in the Greenhalgh Whitley Crown Green Bowling Handicap introduced by Richard Duckenfield from the Waterloo Club, Blackpool
- 10.30 *Open University: Shakespeare*. Burdhouse Primary: A Lesson in Leadership 12.55 *Premier Perfection: Survival in a Competitive Environment* 1.30 *Pigeon Street* (r).
- 1.30 *The Waterloo*. The semifinals and final of the crown green bowling tournament from Blackpool. The commentator is Harry Rigby with summaries by Mike Leach. News and weather at 2.00, 3.00 and 3.50
- 5.00 *The Strange Affair Of...* Bob Symes examines the legends surrounding Glenbury Tor in Somerset (r).
- 5.30 *Film 55* (r).
- 6.00 *Defi* it begins with Mission impossible. The secret agents deal with a threat that threatens the national economy (r).

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 *TV-am* begins with *News* followed by *The Morning Programme* presented by Mike Morris; 7.00 *News* followed by *Good Morning Britain* introduced by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. After *News* includes news and an item on health
- 9.25 *Thames news and weather*
- 9.30 *Runway*. Travel and general news quiz hosted by Richard Madeley 10.00 *Almonds*. For the young 10.20 *News headlines* 10.25 *Thames news and weather*
- 10.30 *The Trojan War* (1961) starring Steve Reeves and John Drew Barrymore. Adventure story about the Trojan War, directed by the epic conflict. Directed by Giorgio Ferroni 12.30 *The Sullivan*. Drama about an Australian family during the 1940s
- 1.00 *News at One* with Jon Snow 1.20 *Thames news and weather* followed by *Clint Eastwood*
- 1.30 *Ice Skating*. The State Electric British Junior Championships from Lee Valley Ice Centre, London. The commentators are Simon Reed and Betty Callaway
- 2.00 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama series set in a remote Australian sheep town 3.00 *Take the High Road*. Isabel learns the truth about Hunter 3.25 *Thames news headlines* 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*
- 4.00 *The Raggy Dolls*. With the voice of Noel Irons 4.30 *Tube Mice*. Cartoon series 4.30 *Dogman* and the *Three Musketeers*. 4.45 *Tokyo*. Introduced by Sandi Toksvil. The guest is Anita Harris (r) (Oracle)
- 5.15 *Blockbusters*. General knowledge quiz presented by Bob Holness
- 5.45 *News with Alastair Stewart* 6.00 *Thames news and weather*
- 6.25 *Help* with advice on road safety

CHANNEL 4

- 12.00 *Just 4 Feet: Hand in Hand*. A series for both deaf and hearing children (r).
- 12.30 *Business Daily*. Financial and business news presented by Susanah Simons.
- 1.00 *Sesame Street*. Pre-school learning series. The guest is Anita Harris (r) (Oracle)
- 2.00 *Film: Reach for the Sky* (1956, b/w) starring Kenneth More. Starring biopic of the Second World War fighter ace, Douglas Bader. Directed by Lewis Gilbert
- 4.30 *Fifteen to One*. General knowledge quiz game. Presented by William G. Stewart
- 5.00 *Children's Channel*. Children's characters beginning with the letter H. Introduced by Rey Alan
- 5.30 *Mark & Mandy*. Comedy series about an alien and the young woman who befriends him. Starring Robin Williams and Pam Dawber
- 6.00 *Family Ties*. American domestic comedy. With Michael J. Fox and Meredith Baxter-Birney

Channel 5

- 6.30 *The March of Time: Reporting the Dictators*. Part three examines one of the most important conflicts of the 1930s: Japan's undeclared war against China. The programme includes rarely-seen footage of Mao Tse-tung and other Red Army leaders after the Long March. Presented by Murray Sayle (Oracle)
- 7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Peter Sissons and Sue Carpenter.
- 7.30 *Comment* followed by *Weather*
- 8.00 *Film: Olympia* (1936, b/w). (see Choice)
- 12.50am *Drugged*. This last programme in the series on Asian heroin in the UK. The *Dagger* programme. Ends at 2.15.

VARIATIONS

- 1.20 *Starting the Actors*: Jane Alexander 6.55-7.20 *Quint* 7.30-8.00 *The Young Doctors* 8.00-8.30 *Quint* 8.30-9.00 *Quint* 9.00-9.30 *Quint* 9.30-10.00 *Quint* 10.00-10.30 *Quint* 10.30-11.00 *Quint* 11.00-11.30 *Quint* 11.30-12.00 *Quint* 12.00-12.30 *Quint* 12.30-1.00 *Quint* 1.00-1.30 *Quint* 1.30-2.00 *Quint* 2.00-2.30 *Quint* 2.30-3.00 *Quint* 3.00-3.30 *Quint* 3.30-4.00 *Quint* 4.00-4.30 *Quint* 4.30-5.00 *Quint* 5.00-5.30 *Quint* 5.30-6.00 *Quint* 6.00-6.30 *Quint* 6.30-7.00 *Quint* 7.00-7.30 *Quint* 7.30-8.00 *Quint* 8.00-8.30 *Quint* 8.30-9.00 *Quint* 9.00-9.30 *Quint* 9.30-10.00 *Quint* 10.00-10.30 *Quint* 10.30-11.00 *Quint* 11.00-11.30 *Quint* 11.30-12.00 *Quint* 12.00-12.30 *Quint* 12.30-1.00 *Quint* 1.00-1.30 *Quint* 1.30-2.00 *Quint* 2.00-2.30 *Quint* 2.30-3.00 *Quint* 3.00-3.30 *Quint* 3.30-4.00 *Quint* 4.00-4.30 *Quint* 4.30-5.00 *Quint* 5.00-5.30 *Quint* 5.30-6.00 *Quint* 6.00-6.30 *Quint* 6.30-7.00 *Quint* 7.00-7.30 *Quint* 7.30-8.00 *Quint* 8.00-8.30 *Quint* 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Dukakis is lagging in lacklustre campaign

From Charles Bremner, Chicago

Two months ago, Mr Michael Dukakis, the marathon man from Boston, could do no wrong. Now he is tired, on the receiving end of a deluge of advice, slogging from behind in a campaign that has turned into a phoney war.

The fatigue is showing. Always tetchy, the Duke has turned positively snappy. Once accessible, he shuns the press who travel on his plane. He is no longer the cool performer whose deadpan delivery was hailed, an acon ago, as antidote to President Reagan's gushy rhetoric. Now he is the one who sounds shrill while the plaudits go to the new self-confidence of Mr George Bush.

There is, of course, still time for the gaffe-prone Vice-President to commit the hara-kiri that could lose him the election. A fickle 30 per cent of the voters are said to be swinging freely between the candidates. Mr Bush has already let some valuable momentum slip from his grasp this week with the anti-semitism row. But, with only eight weeks till voting day, intimations of possible defeat are wafting through the Dukakis camp and some big supporters are tiring of the likely damage to themselves at home.

Congressional Democrats told the Governor over the weekend that if he failed to halt the slide with a strong populist message, he would face likely defeat and a cold winter back in Boston.

It is not all the fault of the technocrat Duke. Thanks to the still healthy economy, the Reagan-Gorbachev glow and the conjunction of peace accords and ceasefires, the campaign has remained free of all but the flimsiest of issues —

such as name-calling over patriotism and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr Dukakis has been unable to tap into the national discontent that seemed to be percolating a few months ago.

Mr John Sasso, the political guerrilla newly reinstated as campaign strategist, insists the issues are there: "We have to make the case. It's there. If we don't, shame on us."

With some of his own staff worrying out loud, Mr Dukakis embarked on his little blue and white Boeing this week with a clear goal: to sell, in the catchy and simple

Bush team resignations.8
Conor Cruise O'Brien.12

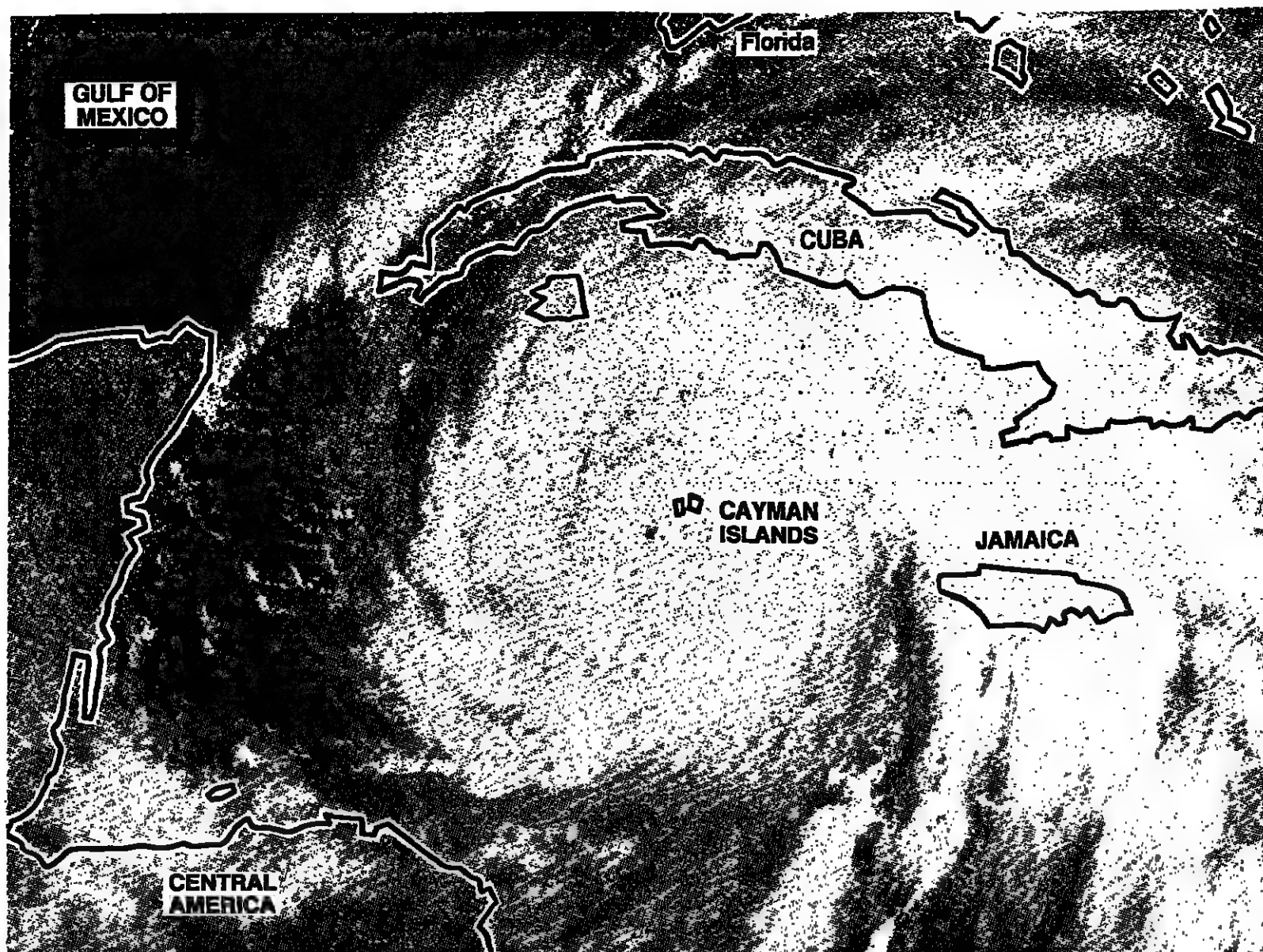
idiom of the television "sound bite", his view that the Republicans have squandered American clout in the world by running up history's biggest debt.

In the process, he is out to cut a figure as a commander-in-chief, and skewer the masterful efforts of the Bush campaign to depict him as a legalistic "wimp". Just as the Bush campaign put its man at the wheel of heavy trucks back in its wimp days, the diminutive Mr Dukakis this week has played the macho, driving in tanks and surrounding himself with uniforms, military hardware and flags.

But, despite the work of the wily Mr Sasso and the Governor's own reported conversion to the need for a populist appeal, the tough, new-look Dukakis has yet to take off.

In the view of many old Democratic hands, the Dukakis campaign will catch fire only if he hits the "hot button" on the economy — the stagnation of real wages

The hurricane raging over the Caribbean



A satellite view of the eye of hurricane Gilbert as it was raging just south-east of the Cayman Islands yesterday after devastating Jamaica. The effects of the hurricane, measuring 800 miles across, were felt from the Florida Keys to Venezuela, where three people were killed and 15 missing in a mudslide.

Continued from page 1

"Thankfully, there have been no reports of injuries to any Britons. Communications with Jamaica are still not back to normal but tour operators are standing by to offer any assistance necessary to people trapped there," an Abta spokesman said.

The Foreign Office has advised Britons not to travel to the area.

A British Airways plane destined for Kingston stopped short at Nassau yesterday and 350 holidaymakers planning to fly direct to Jamaica on another BA flight yesterday afternoon were forced to remain at Heathrow overnight.

"We are hoping to get them off at 7.30am today but, at the moment, we have absolutely no communications with Jamaica and are assuming the airport remains closed," a BA spokesman said.

Travel agents were also advising holidaymakers heading for the Cayman Islands, where Hurricane Gilbert was believed to be heading, to contact their tour operators.

Others with parties travelling to Jamaica in the next few days have offered customers full refunds or alternative destinations.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that the Government had told Jamaica that it would provide whatever assistance it could to help the island recover from the after-effects of the hurricane.

At 800 miles across, the effects of hurricane Gilbert were broad enough to be felt in the Florida Keys and as far south as Venezuela where three died

CIA linked to diplomatic shooting row

Continued from page 1

Mr Timothy Eggar, the Foreign Office Minister involved in the expulsion order, was made with the full authority of the Government and that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who is currently on a five-nation African tour, had been kept fully informed.

The expulsion of the two Cuban envoys has reduced the size of their mission to twelve diplomats, but it is open to the Government in Havana to appoint another Ambassador to replace Dr Fernandez-Mell. He had arrived in Britain only

in April 1987 when Cuba's representation was upgraded.

Britain's mission in Havana has four or five diplomats but yesterday the Foreign Office said that any retaliation by the Cuban Government would be "totally unjustified".

Last night a Foreign Office spokesman, commenting on the Cuban claims that the CIA or British intelligence was involved, stated: "I don't care whether he was shooting his mother-in-law. The point is that the setting loose of a gun on the streets of London is against our laws. Imagine what would have happened if it had killed someone."

Havana, while not attempting to disguise the fact that Señor Medina Pérez was armed and fired in a crowded street, alleged that the CIA operation could not have been carried out without the co-operation of British intelligence and the authorities.

The Foreign Office said: "They are making allegations about security and intelligence matters which we cannot comment on."

But the statement from Havana warned of possible retaliatory action when it said: "For the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs the decision to expel the Cuban Ambassador

in London, who had nothing to do with the incident, is extremely irregular and unjust and has only the aim of creating a scandal to act as a smokescreen behind which the disgusting co-operation in this horrible episode of the CIA and British intelligence can hide."

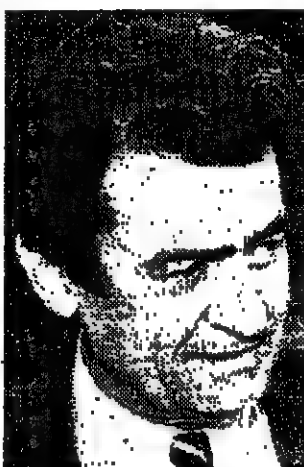
A US Embassy spokeswoman said she could not comment on intelligence matters and the CIA refused to confirm or deny the allegations.

But Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, demanded a statement

and explanation from the Prime Minister on the incident and in particular the allegations that British security services had been tailing the diplomat.

He said: "It is unbelievable and makes the expulsion of the ambassador look ridiculous. The onus is now on the Government to explain what was going on."

Mr Foulkes said that the searchlight was now on the activities of the security services. He wanted to know what had been going on and whether the security services had been armed.



Dr Fernandez-Mell: his expulsion "was unjust".

Start on mail backlog

Continued from page 1

have to cope with a backlog of 25 million items.

In London, it will take between two and three weeks to clear the backlog of 15 million items of post, while in Scotland, where the backlog stands at between 4 and 5 million, it is estimated it would take about a week to get back to normal.

The Mail Users' Association, the largest body representing business mail users, is seeking a meeting with Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to discuss the threat of further post strikes.

Mr Leon Morelli, the association's deputy chairman, has called on the Post Office to cancel last week's postal price rises. "We need compensation for last week's losses not extra bills."

A private prosecution alleging that Mr Tiffin committed a criminal offence by willfully

delaying the mail during the postal strike is to be launched in London.

The action is being brought by the Freedom Association under sections of the 1953 Post Office Act which state that anyone found guilty of delaying the mail can be imprisoned for up to two years.

Mr Norris McWhirter, the association's chairman, said that if the action were successful it would lead to a string of civil actions against the union by businesses which had suffered financially because of the 12-day strike.

The association has tentatively fixed October 5 as the start of its action at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court but will be attempting today to get an earlier date.

● Britain's one million council workers yesterday accepted a pay rise of almost 6 per cent which will bring the lowest grades to over £100 a week for the first time.

Cuba seen as an important but declining UK market

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Cuba is an important export market for some British companies but exports have been declining in recent years. Britain runs a substantial trade surplus with Cuba.

Exports to Cuba, principally transport equipment, chemicals, industrial machinery and instruments, reached a peak of £64.4 million in 1984, but slipped to £41.5 million last year. In the first half of this year Britain exported goods worth £20 million to Cuba.

Imports from Cuba, mainly petroleum oils, cigars and

other tobacco products, sugar and fresh fruit, have picked up in the past three years. Last year they totalled £12.8 million but already, in the first half of this year, that figure has been exceeded with imports of £14.4 million.

Britain's trade surplus with Cuba reached a peak of £22 million in 1983, but slipped to £5.5 million in the first half of this year.

British Shipbuilders dismissed outright any suggestion that expelling the Cuban Ambassador would put a big order from Cuba's state-owned

shipping company, Manbisa, at risk.

A possible Cuban order worth £100-million has figured as a component in various expressions of interest in British Shipbuilders' closure-threatened subsidiary, North East Shipbuilders Ltd.

But Manbisa has not yet invited British Shipbuilders to tender for the order, and the expressions of interest in North East Shipbuilders Ltd have yet to be given the concrete form of bids for the yard, or, indeed, be taken seriously.

Havana intelligence defector 'disclosed spy plot to US'

By Nicholas Beaton

A man accused by Havana yesterday of sparking a shooting incident in London is one of the most significant Cuban intelligence defectors to the United States in recent times.

The Cuban foreign affairs ministry accused Señor Florentino Azpilaga Lombard of attempting to persuade Señor Carlos Medina Pérez, its commercial attaché in London, to defect.

Señor Medina Pérez had reacted by drawing a pistol and firing on the defector and his four companions. Señor Azpilaga, aged 41,

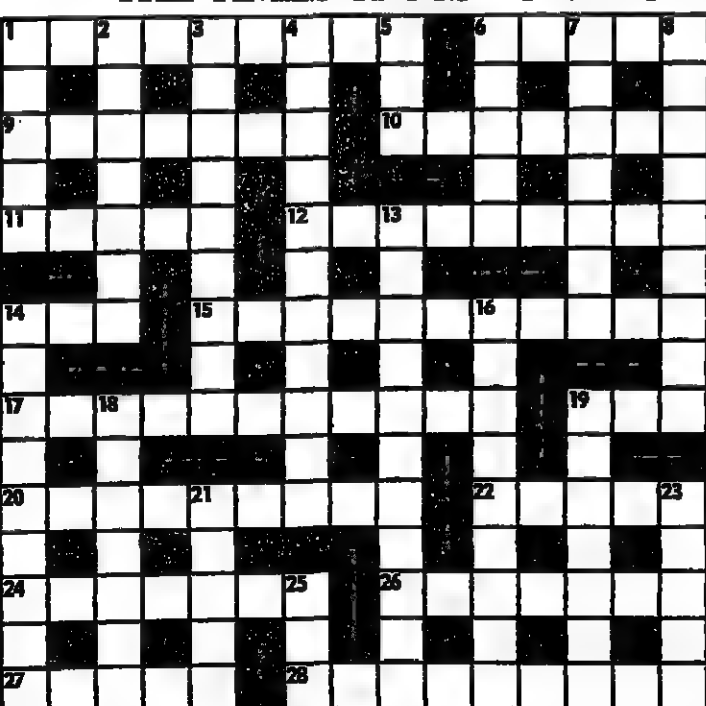
slipped across the Czechoslovakia-Austria border with his girl friend on June 6 last year and sought asylum in the US. He abandoned his post at the Cuban embassy, Prague, where he was the senior representative of the Cuban foreign intelligence service, DGI.

During a lengthy debriefing by the Central Intelligence Agency, he disclosed that the US had for years been employing Cuban agents who had remained secretly loyal to President Fidel Castro and fed false or useless information.

He was described by US intelligence sources as "a significant intelligence figure providing excellent information". His defection, which came nine days after that of a Cuban brigadier general, infuriated and embarrassed Havana.

Radio interviews with him were broadcast by Radio Martí, the US propaganda station, which beams into Cuba. Major Azpilaga said at one point that he would identify 350 Cuban agents in several countries, but would give them time to return to Havana before exposing them.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,774



- ACROSS**
- One of two claimants to the throne of Barataria... (9).
 - Changing roles with the unsuccessful one? (5).
 - A sink-or-swim situation for inexperienced entrants (4,3).
 - Rustic going blue at odd intervals with stomach trouble (7).
 - Part of a skeleton in hospital use (5).
 - Saint Peter of the Papal Ring (if backed by the general) (9).
 - Anyway this bomb presents no danger (3).
 - His neighbour also a "precious stone set in the silver sea" (7,4).
 - As in the lane parties where Napoleon last walked (5,6).
 - Lawyers save a bit of music (3).
 - Some club members take care of double-time adjustment without one (9).
 - Arboreal type of bird caught by both sides (5).
 - Make short work of a game (7).
 - Rent trouble — a big blow (7).
 - American island where kile is woven (5).
 - In serious vein, like bird catching worms round his retreat (9).
- DOWN**
- Wordsworth sends his sister for one awaited on stage (5).
 - Irritated by prophylactic treatment? (7).
 - Exhausted — like miserable Mr Micawber's annual income? (9).
 - Hamlet told Ophelia he was so honest (11).
 - Hood dropped in to do so (3).
 - Wealth gave one of the Borgias a start (5).
 - Where Greeks gave Persians beans — or sausages? (7).
 - Teller of tales — a French one in Capek's play (9).
 - Tea's cheaper anyhow, and it's warmer indoors (5-6).
 - Make unholy mess of seed packing-case (9).
 - Devil's work getting fish without one on a great lake (9).
 - Short measure — examination shows it's wrong (7).
 - A way to support terrorist weapon with high-flown talk (7).
 - East River's sort of revolution without trial (5).
 - Almost literally the last apartment suitable for swinging cats (5).
 - One of the flock would you say? (3).

WORD-WATCHING

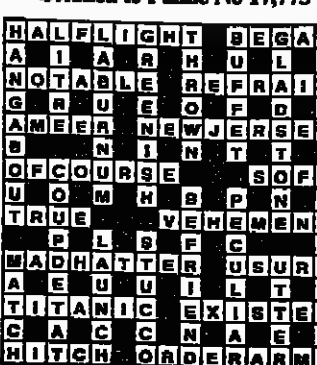
A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- PHOCINE**
a. A ballet designer
b. Bluffing or disingenuous
c. Seal-like
- FRUGIVOROUS**
a. Ectoparasitic
b. Fruit-eating
c. Destructive
- GAMMADION**
a. A swastika
b. A medieval verse epic
c. A style for piglets
- BOTTLE-HOLDER**
a. A bicyclist's gadget
b. A second at boxing
c. A phlegmatic, unexcitable man

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,773



WEATHER

Most places will be dry with sunny intervals, the best sunshine being in southern Scotland, north-west England, South Wales and south-west England. Eastern England, East Anglia, London and south-east England will be rather cloudy and windy with some showers making it feel very chilly. Northern and western Scotland, and Northern Ireland, will start bright, but become cloudier. Outlook: mostly dry with sunny intervals. Becoming warmer.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Alexandria	24-28	SE 10	100
Algiers	20-24	SE 10	100
Amman	18-22	SE 10	100
Athens	20-24	SE 10	100
Bahia	26-30	SE 10	100
Bahrein	26-30	SE 10	100
Bombay	26-30	SE 10	100
Buenos Aires	20-24	SE 10	100
Calcutta	26-30	SE 10	100
Cairo	24-28	SE 10	100
Chennai	26-30	SE 10	100
Cebu	26-30	SE 10	100
Dhaka	26-30	SE 10	100
Delhi	26-30	SE 10	100
Dubai	26-30	SE 10	100
Guangzhou	26-30	SE 10	100
Hong Kong	26-30	SE 10	100
Kolkata	26-30	SE 10	100
London	12-16	SE 10	100
Los Angeles	18-22	SE 10	100
Manila	26-30	SE 10	100
Mumbai	26-30	SE 10	100
Nairobi	20-24	SE 10	100
Paris	12-16	SE 10	100
Rangoon	26-30	SE 10	100
Seoul	12-16	SE 10	100
Singapore	26-30	SE 10	100
Sydney	18-22	SE 10	100
Taipei	18-22	SE 10	100
Tokyo	18-22	SE 10	100
Toronto	12-16	SE 10	100
Yokohama	18-22	SE 10	100

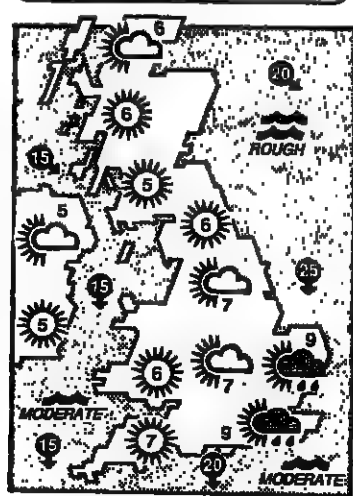
AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Cardiff	12-16	SE 10	100
Edinburgh	12-16	SE 10	100
London	12-16	SE 10	100
Manchester	12-16	SE 10	100
Newcastle	12-16	SE 10	100
Nottingham	12-16	SE 10	100
Sheffield	12-16	SE 10	100
Sunderland	12-16	SE 10	100
Wolverhampton	12-16	SE 10	100

THE POUND

Country	Rate
Australia	2.25
Canada	1.75
Denmark	1.36
France	6.55
Germany	2.36
Italy	1.36
Japan	163.64
Netherlands	2.20
Sweden	4.66
Switzerland	1.75
USA	1.54

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 7.57 pm to 6.06 am

Edinburgh 7.57 pm to 6.15 am

Manchester 7.57 pm to 6.13 am

Wolverhampton 7.57 pm to 6.13 am

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Wolverhampton 7.57 pm to 6.13 am

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hall Engineering falls to pre-tax £4.71m

Hall Engineering (Holdings), the steel stockholder and producer of wire mesh, automotive parts and reinforced concrete, reported operating profits up 22 per cent to £4.1 million for the six months to June 30. Pre-tax profits, however, were down 8 per cent to £4.71 million, because of an extraordinary credit in the previous year arising from land sales. Sales rose 9.8 per cent to £73 million.

The company said prospects for the rest of the year were encouraging and should justify the capital investments being made in additional premises and manufacturing plants. It plans further acquisitions. Earnings per share after exceptional items were down to 19.81p from last year's 25.17p. The interim dividend rises from 4.6p to 5.5p a share.

Garage buys Jacques Vert for DC Cook expansion

DC Cook Holdings, the USM-quoted multi-franchise car dealer, has made its first move into the North-east with the purchase from the receiver of three franchise garages for £785,500 cash. The three, which represent the properties and stock of Vic Young Garages, are motor trade outlets in Sunderland and South Shields, Tyne and Wear.

Invergordon advance

Invergordon Distillers, the Scotch whisky group, yesterday reported a 48 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.86 million for the six months to end-June. Turnover was up 29 per cent to £25.7 million. The tax charge, however, increased 88 per cent because of a non-tax-allowable writedown of goodwill. Earnings per share went up 29 per cent to 9.74p. The interim dividend was raised to 2.25p per share, from 1.75p previously.

De Morgan acquisition

De Morgan & Co, the chartered surveyor quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, is paying a maximum of £1.9 million for a retail management consultancy, the Retail Group, based in London's West End. The initial consideration of £150,000 is in new De Morgan shares, with the balance dependent on RG's assets and future profits.

Scot Heritable rises to £4.4m

Scottish Heritable Trust, the York-based industrial and property group, lifted pre-tax profits by 37 per cent to £4.4 million in the six months to the end of June. Earnings per share are up 16 per cent to 7.2p and the interim dividend rises to 2.5p, up from 2p. The company says that profits from property and housebuilding have improved substantially.

Bae flight path looks unclear

As the on-off marriage with the Rover Group crept towards the altar, it possibly slipped the City's attention that British Aerospace was in the business of selling aircraft.

Since then the company has had the benefit of a "good Farnborough" — has there ever been a bad one? — to focus attention on its core activity.

Yesterday came the interim results to end-June, with pre-tax profits up 34 per cent to £95 million. Losses from civil aircraft, including the Airbus consortium, were more than halved and the military aircraft division better than held its own, even before the benefits of the second Saudi Tornados-and-bombs contract.

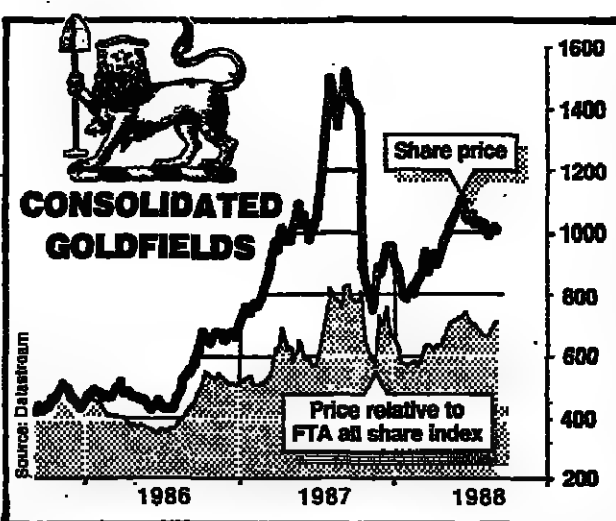
Forecasts for the current year range between £230 million and £250 million and are equally wide for the 1989 financial year — between £290 million and £330 million.

The shares fell 16p to 465p. In its bid to win over the City, two factors are beyond BAE's control. With just 0.2 per cent of the shares in public hands, analysts have never needed to look too closely at Rover.

And even assuming the offer for the public equity is completed after the special shareholders' meeting next Thursday, under Takeover Panel rules BAE remains "in purdah" until then.

This meant cancellation of the usual analysts' conference yesterday. But BAE did not help its own case by its unwillingness to reveal the contribution of Royal Ordnance to first-half profits.

This may be to mask a bigger-than-expected fall-off on the missiles side, beset by export control problems for its latest technology which are not shared by some of its overseas competitors. Meanwhile the civil aircraft



division, excluding Airbus, made larger-than-anticipated trading losses, with BAE refusing to say how much of the £320 million provisions, put in place last year-end, were used.

The shares have a certain defensive appeal, offering a prospective yield of 5.7 per cent, and the price/earnings ratio, which varies between 6.6 and 7.8, hardly looks demanding. However, until the profits picture is clearer, some caution is advised, and BAE looks fully valued pending more details on Rover's prospects.

Consolidated Gold Fields

Consolidated Gold Fields is no longer prepared simply to sit back and wait for the postman to deliver dividend cheques from its far-flung empire.

It wants to become more of an operating company, with a stronger grip on cash flow, a clearer idea of earnings generation, and surer ground from which to declare dividends. Yesterday's 22p final divi-

denid, making a 16 per cent increase to 32p for the year, was well above expectations, and is a sign that the old lady can be generous if she wants.

The other noticeable and fundamental shift is that the future generation of gold earnings is fast tilting away from South Africa towards North America and other parts of the world.

This is partly due to the recent reduction from 48 per cent to 38 per cent in the group's holding in Gold Fields of South Africa, but also because ConsGold's wholly-owned and associated North American mines should have been born.

By the early 1990s, the South African gold contribution will have fallen to below 50 per cent, and a host of new North American mines should have been born.

Add to that the consistent progress which the wholly-owned ARC operation continues to turn in, and ConsGold still has its followers despite the weakness of the gold price.

The attributable line showing profits of £212.5 million against £164.1 million and a welcome dividend increase were good enough for the shares to keep their friends,

despite nerves about the gold price. The profits make-up shows a strong advance from core subsidiaries, but softer — though not unexpected — contributions from associates, with Newmont suffering because of a higher interest burden, now addressed.

Purists would disregard the fat profit of £129.1 million against £39.1 million from financial operations, though ConsGold has a case in insisting that this is part and parcel of on-going activities.

Further advances from core operations are likely this year, Newmont will improve and further portfolio sales are likely. All this adds up to an advance at the attributable line in 1989.

In turn, dividends should again march forward. At £10.20 a share on a yield of 4.2 per cent, and because takeover thoughts are ever in the background, the case for staying with ConsGold remains.

Ward White

The do-it-yourself market is growing at an annual rate of 14 per cent. The top half dozen companies share 25 per cent of the market. Ward White is the third largest and has ambitious expansion plans.

With such favourable market conditions and a dominant position within a fragmented sector, Ward White should be looking at a rosy future. And following yesterday's record interim results, when pre-tax profits jumped 38 per cent to £27.7 million, analysts are upgrading their full-year forecasts to nearer £34 million, a 28 per cent increase on 1987.

In support of his strategy of concentrating expansion of stores on edge-of-town locations, Mr Philip Birch, the chairman, is fond of pointing out that 60 per cent of all US

stores are in out-of-town locations compared with a very small percentage in the United Kingdom. Halfords, for instance, plans to open 45 superstores this year, followed by 50-65 next year. All will have servicing bays where space permits.

However, Ward White is also planning to step up competition in the High Street through its most recent acquisition, AG Stanley, AG Stanley, which has 500 stores, has made Ward White the biggest retailer of paint and wallpaper in Europe. About 50 of the less attractive stores will be closed, and an opening programme will start next year under the Homestyle banner.

So why are Ward White's shares on a prospective multiple of just 8.9, a 20 per cent discount to the market, and a 30 per cent discount to the depressed retail sector?

Clearly Owen Owen remains a problem area. A new chief executive has been installed to turn the chain of department stores round, and the market has interpreted this as a signal that Ward White does not intend to dispose of the chain just yet.

But the market is also worried that if it does not sell Owen Owen, Ward White will be issuing more of its paper if it is the successful bidder for the Sandford DIY chain. Sandford's owner, Sharpe & Fisher, is offering it for sale at a price in the range of £40 to £60 million.

And there is always the unquantifiable impact of higher interest rates, which could be used to argue in favour of more DIY or less with equal facility.

But when it is remembered that group gearing will fall to 17 per cent at most by the year-end, and possibly zero after disposals, these worries appear to be fully discounted in the price.

ICI reveals dual move for growth in Japan

By Colin Narborough

Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's biggest exporter, yesterday said it had applied for a stock market listing in Tokyo and unveiled plans for a new £50 million plant in Japan.

Mr Denys Henderson, the ICI chairman, making the twin announcement in Tokyo, said the moves were designed to give the company an even greater presence in the Pacific Basin.

ICI has applied to the Japanese Finance Ministry for permission to list its shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange from December. Nomura Securities and SG Warburg will be the joint listing agents.

The company added that the listing would not be accompanied by a new share issue.

The new plant, which will be built at Tamatsukuri, near Tokyo, by ICI Japan, will produce "Melinex" polyester film, mainly used in the photographic, microfilm and heavy electrical goods industries.

It will have an annual capacity of 7,500 tonnes, giving sales of £25 million to £30 million and is due for completion in 1990.

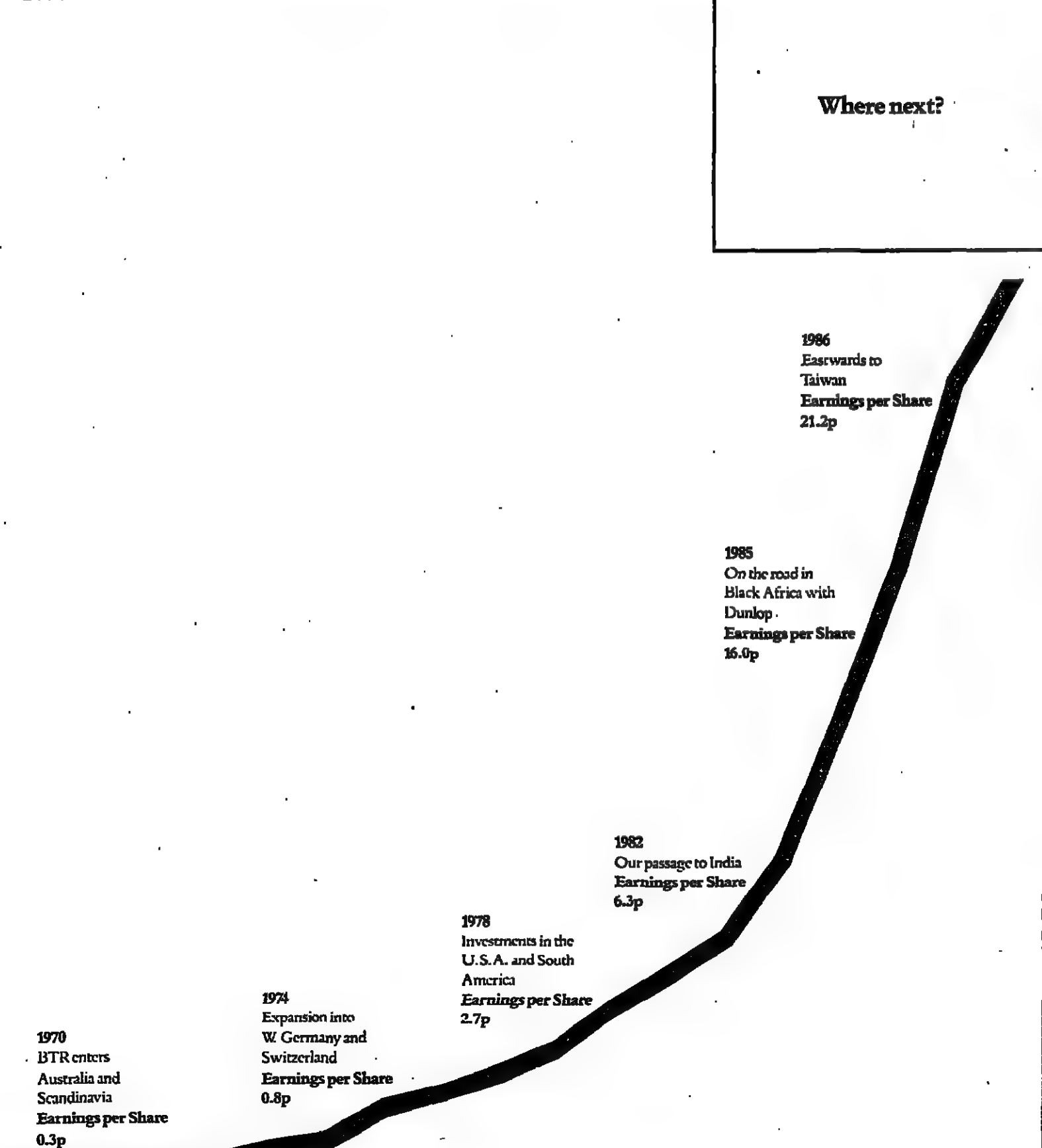
Mr Henderson said the plant was the fourth significant investment in Japan in a year in the high value added end of ICI's business.

ICI was aiming for a larger share of the high-tech growth markets, using Japanese equipment and manufacturing methods, he said. In the last 12 months, ICI had invested nearly £100 million in Japan towards this goal.

The site for the new plant would also give scope for further expansion.

He added that ICI was now well placed for further international success.

BTR'S EARNINGS PER SHARE 1969 TO 1987



What we get up to when we go abroad.

BTR

FOR YOUR COPY OF BTR'S 1988 INTERIM RESULTS, WRITE TO SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL, OR PHONE 01-834 3848.

£4m Servelec contract

Servelec, the computer systems subsidiary of Portals Holdings, the banknote paper maker, has won a contract worth more than £4 million from the Welsh Water Authority for the design and installation of a regional computer system.

Work will start immediately and be completed within two years. The system will monitor and control the quality of water.

COMPANY BRIEFS

BRACE BROTHERS (Int)
Pre-tax: £3.86 (£2.85)m
EPS: 5.5 (4.2)p
Div: 1p (0.8p)

MAYBORN GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.09 (£0.91)m
EPS: 4.2 (3.2)p
Div: 1.3 (1.2p)

HIBERNIAN GP (Int) Ir.
Pre-tax: £4.15 (£2.75)m
EPS: 4.3 (2.7)p
Div: 1.4p

CORTON BEACH (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.63 (£0.81)m
EPS: 4.2 (2.9)p
Div: Nil

GASKELL BROS (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.02 (£0.63)m
EPS: 13.7 (8.5)p
Div: 2.5 (2.2p)

METAL INSTMENTS (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.12 (£0.78)m
EPS: 4.16 (3.02p Adj)
Div: Nil

OSPREY COMMUN (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.64 (£0.38)m
EPS: 6.71 (4.76)p
Div: 2p Mkg 3p (2.5p)

Turnover £56.52 (£41.19)m. Company continues to pursue opportunities for expansion and is confident of further growth.

Dylon's continued recovery and SFPC contribution expect to be key factors in achieving satisfactory results for year.

Premium down by 6.6 per cent. Company determined to maintain strong underlying improvement in their underwriting results.

Turnover £47.51 (£20.90)m. Company intends to pay higher final dividend. Potential acquisitions being progressed.

Turnover £14.77 (£8.98)m. As a result of capital expenditure on projects, interest charges will be higher in second half.

Turnover £4.62 (£3.39)m. Has started second half with a record order book and remains confident of a successful year.

Turnover £14.56 (£9.54)m. New business has been acquired and group continues to develop existing subsidiaries.

Iceland up 30% to beat setback

By Cliff Feltham

Iceland Frozen Foods, the freezer group, spent £9 million on building the most advanced cold store in Europe at its Deeside headquarters but hit an unexpected snag when its automatic scanning system began rejecting suppliers goods.

Mr Malcolm Walker, the chairman, said yesterday: "The quality of the bar coding used on the outer cases was just not good enough. Something like 20 per cent of the cases were being rejected, so we had to shut the operation down and go back to a manual system. This inevitably caused a loss of sales."

However, Iceland shrugged off the setback and reported pre-tax profits for the first six months of the year up 30 per cent to £4.1 million.

Sales were 37 per cent ahead at £95 million, while earnings per share rose 23 per cent to 9.6p a share. The company is paying an interim dividend of 1.7p, up from 1.45p.

ATTENTION HUNTER PLC SHAREHOLDERS

Wickes plc

Recommended Offer for Hunter PLC ("the Offer")

Special receiving arrangements for forms of acceptance

The first closing date for acceptances of the Offer is Saturday, 17th September, 1988. Completed forms of acceptance must be received at Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues Department, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD no later than 3.00 pm on that day.

Due to the current postal delays, arrangements have been made for acceptances of the Offer to be received at certain branches of Barclays Bank PLC referred to below.

Completed forms of acceptance, together with the related share certificates and/or other documents of title, may be lodged by accepting Hunter shareholders in an envelope addressed to Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues Department (Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD) at the following branches of Barclays Bank by 12.00 noon on Friday, 16th September, 1988 for onward transmission at their own risk:

Aberdeen 1 Rubislaw Terrace	Exeter 20 High Street	Newcastle upon Tyne Percy Street
Birmingham 63 Colmore Row	Glasgow 90 St Vincent Street	Norwich Bank Plain
Brighton 139-142 North Street	Ipswich 1 Princes Street	Nottingham Old Market Square
Bristol 40 Corn Street	Lancaster 38 Market Street	Oxford Old Bank
Cardiff 121 Queen Street	Leeds 28-30 Park Row	Plymouth 19 Princess Street
Carlisle 33 English Street	Liverpool 4 Water Street	Sheffield Commercial Street
Cheltenham 128 High Street	London - Pall Mall 1 Pall Mall East	Southampton 171-172 High Street
Edinburgh 35 St Andrew Square	Manchester 17 York Street	York 1, 2 & 3 Parliament Street

If Hunter shareholders are in any doubt as to these arrangements, they should telephone Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues Department on 01-489 1995 ext. 4228.

The directors of Wickes plc are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information herein is in accordance with the facts.

US trade deficit shrinks to \$33.3bn in second quarter

Washington (Reuters) - The US current account deficit shrank to \$33.34 billion in the second quarter from a revised \$36.94 billion in the first quarter, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

The current account includes trade in merchandise and services as well as financial transactions with the rest of the world.

The deficit is \$70.27 billion for the first half of this year. It was \$153.96 billion for the whole of 1987. The second-quarter 1987 deficit was \$40.85 billion.

The 9.8 per cent decrease in the gap between the second and first quarters was more than accounted for by a drop in the merchandise trade deficit to \$29.94 billion in the second period from \$35.18 billion in the first period.

The net services balance, meanwhile, shifted to a deficit of \$492 million in the second quarter from a revised first-

quarter surplus of \$1.37 billion. The department previously reported a first-quarter net services deficit of \$655 million.

Unless the second-quarter net services deficit is revised to a surplus, it would be the first service gap in 30 years.

Services receipts fell \$2.3 billion in the April-June period to \$43.6 billion, while services payments fell \$0.3 billion to \$44.1 billion.

The decrease in receipts from services reflected a decrease in income on US direct investment abroad and was more than accounted for by a shift to capital losses for foreign affiliates of US companies because of the appreciation of the dollar, the department said.

The drop in services payments included a \$0.8 billion drop in income on foreign direct investment in the

United States and was offset in part by a rise in other private income payments.

Net unilateral transfers were \$2.91 billion in the second quarter, compared with \$3.12 billion in the first quarter.

Merchandise exports in the second quarter rose to \$79.67 billion from \$75.30 billion in the first period, as imports fell to \$109.60 billion from \$110.48 billion.

British figures challenged

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Sir Douglas Hague, the former chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council, yesterday challenged the figures which suggest that Britain is running a huge balance of payments deficit.

Addressing the annual conference of the Operational Research Society in Sheffield, Sir Douglas, chairman of the information consultancy

Metaprix, said: "It would not be at all surprising if the deficit was either much smaller than we think or even did not exist at all."

He questioned the value of the balance of payments data. "I am reliably informed that Wales has a balance of payments deficit, but who cares?"

Sir Douglas's claim was based on the fact that there are

large residual errors and balancing items in the national accounts. This gap, he said, amounted to some £20 billion.

Other economists have also noted discrepancies, suggesting that the current account deficit is smaller than the recorded figures indicate. But they tend to conclude that a sharp deterioration has occurred.

New Raine plan for Ruberoid holders

By John Bell
City Editor

Ruberoid shareholders are being offered a cash-for-stock plan as they ponder the rival takeover offers from Raine Industries, the housebuilder, and Tarmac, the construction group.

Raine has put forward a last-ditch proposal which could appeal to Ruberoid shareholders worried about a possible Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation of the Tarmac proposals. Raine has indicated it may be willing to extend its paper offer if it receives 30 per cent acceptance from holders of Ruberoid in respect of its cash terms by 1 pm today.

Raine's unusual move is dictated by the fact that its cash terms depend on underwriting agreements which expire on September 25.

Tarmac has not been given clearance to bid by the Office of Fair Trading and there are concerns over the market share, 60 per cent plus, in roofing felt which would be held by Tarmac and Ruberoid.

If Raine gains 30 per cent acceptance of the cash offer, it is willing to extend the paper terms pending the outcome of the OFT decision.

Mr Peter Parkin, Raine's chief executive, points out that acceptors of the cash terms will be able to withdraw if Tarmac's higher offer is given a green light.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Investors can afford to wait in for the gasman

Timing is everything in a dawn raid, and British Gas was a couple of hours too early with its action on the Lasso front. If it had waited until tea time - which these days passes with barely a chink of china anywhere in the City - more investors may have heard about the sorry prognostications from the President of Opec, Mr Rikman Lukman, that oil would go to \$9 a barrel if nothing was done to curb overproduction.

As it was, few investors were awake enough to know of the impending doom cloud hanging over oil producers. So they did not rush to sell their Lasso shares to British Gas in quite the volumes that the old gasman Sir Denis Rooke had hoped. Despite the oil price weakness, however, few of the holders who stayed put will regret the decision: rather, it will be more likely that the sellers of the 1.14 per cent of the Lasso capital will rue the day, unless they are such large holders that they regarded the sacrifice of a few shares at 480p worthwhile if it eventually produces a bid of 600p.

Weak oil prices are a short-term phenomenon and no reason for parting with a long-term holding. Given the degree of attention that the price problem has attracted this week, it is unlikely that Mr Lukman's fears, voiced on Monday night, will be realized. He was rallying the forces, reminding them what would happen if output is not

pulled back. Given a continuation of supply far in excess of demand, then there is nothing even to stop the price at \$9; but it will not happen. There is likely to be a price panel meeting this month, ahead of the full ministerial meeting in November. The comments of BP managing director Robert Horton, that a full meeting should be considered before November, are unlikely to change the timing.

With those meetings in the offing, few speculators would be willing to sell short, for the upside in the price would be easier to engineer than further downside.

None of this need worry investors in the North Sea - not yet anyway. The stock market is the cheapest place to prospect for energy, and the price paid recently by Ultramar for the Blackfriars operation suggests that Lasso's reserves put a value of around 600p a share on the equity. RTZ is lined up to swap its Lasso shares for cash, and the Lasso management, under the able Chris Greentree, has the lure of running the whole British Gas energy operation - complete - eventually with Enterprise.

Investors should sit tight, and wait for slices of the gasman's cash mountain to come their way. In the end, it will be the equity market rather than the oil market that decides the shape of the North Sea industry.

Interlink delivers 23% advance

By Our City Staff

Mr Richard Gabriel has relished the postal strike. Interlink Express, his USM-quoted overnight parcel and letter delivery company, had one of its busiest weeks. Sales doubled and "our systems were stretched to the limits," the former motorcycle courier said.

The company went into the letter delivery business in March with the acquisition of Postplan, a private postal service, operating in greater London. Mr Gabriel intends to launch Postplan nationwide, despite the Post Office's monopoly on delivering letters costing less than £1.

Interlink increased pre-tax profits by 23.4 per cent to £5.8 million on turnover up £10 million to £31.44 million during the year to June 30. Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to 23.16p. A final dividend of 3.65p makes a total of 6.9p.



Bearer of glad tidings: Richard Gabriel yesterday (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Trust stake in Harland up to 17%

By Michael Clark

Harland Simon, the electronics group, jumped 20p to 362p yesterday after Mountain Dew, a trust company based in the Cayman Islands, increased its holding to 17.26 per cent.

Mountain Dew - of which Mr Birol Nadir, aged 24, the son of Mr Asil Nadir, the chairman and chief executive of Polly Peck, is a beneficiary - has bought an extra 1.78 million shares.

Mountain Dew is owned by a family settlement of which Cititrust (Cayman) is a trustee. Mr Birol Nadir may seek a seat on the Harland Simon board. He says he knows the company well and reckons it has "great potential and a strong management. The company is ideally positioned to expand."

Mr Roy Ashman, Harland Simon's chief executive, says: "He is a talented young man and I am sure that in time he will contribute to the group."

Willis Faber's flat half-time £45m

By Carol Ferguson

Willis Faber, the insurance broker which merged with Stewart Wrightson last September, revealed flat interim profits of £45.2 million for the half-year to June 30, compared with £45.5 million in the corresponding period last year.

However, Mr David Palmer, Willis Faber's chairman, said that the two sets of results were not directly comparable, because Stewart Wrightson was not consolidated until September 1 1987, and therefore not included in the comparative figures.

Mr Chris Pountney, insurance analyst at County NatWest WoodMac, calculates that if the Stewart

Wrightson profits for the first half of 1987 had been included in the comparative figures, the pre-tax profit for the first half of last year would have been £58.7 million.

Earnings per share were down 30 per cent to 11.77p.

Tempus 26 and the interim dividend was maintained at 3.85p net.

Mr Palmer said: "Excluding the effect of currency movements, the underlying increase in our brokerage is estimated to be 4 per cent. This was achieved against the well-publicized background of falling premium rates, intense competition and over-capac-

ity." He said that the two businesses were now fully integrated. "The benefits of the merger continue to develop, in particular in our substantially enlarged UK retail broking company, Willis Wrightson, and in our North American operations," he said.

He added that the integration process had enabled the group to reduce staff and overheads, and that, on a comparable basis, overall expenses had been contained at the 1987 level in 1988.

Willis Faber has a 21 per cent shareholding in Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank. Its contribution was halved from £9.5 million to £4.3 million at the interim stage.

ECGD claims fastest credit cover

ECGD, Britain's leading export credit insurer, yesterday claimed to offer the fastest service of its kind in the world and said it was now able to deal with some 60 per cent of credit inquiries on the day they are made. Mr Colin

Foxall, ECGD's group director, insurance services, said ECGD's short-term cover last month was 12.5 per cent higher than last August.

This type of cover, which accounts for £11 billion of ECGD's total cover of £14

billion, was so far matching 1987 levels, when growth of 4 per cent was achieved, he said.

Mr Mervyn Bosom, director of underwriting, said the company's rapid business processing had improved by 42 per cent in two years.

Academic brings art to business

The sale of Quilter Goodison by Bank Paribas to Commercial Union marks the end of the stockbroker careers of two of its senior executives - erstwhile senior partner Sir Nicholas Goodison who will, before the end of the year, be resigning to take up his new position as chairman of the TSB, and chief executive Dr Christopher Honeyborne. Honeyborne, aged 47, tells me he will be returning to Bank Paribas, from whence he came. "I've been with Paribas for 11 years, and was put in to run Quilters when we bought it in April 1986," he says. Honeyborne read natural sciences at Cambridge, before beginning an academic career in the Department of Agriculture at Reading University. "When I got to the age of about 30 I decided I didn't want to become a middle-aged scientist and so I went out into industry and worked for Cuprinol, making wood preservatives," he says. "But I soon realized that if you wanted to get on you had to be financially aware, and I wasn't." So he jumped ship again, landing up in the corporate finance department at Lazard's, and then switched to Paribas. Clearly having made up for lost time, he is now a director of both Carter and a subsidiary of Automated Security Holdings, as well as being a founding director of Lynne Stern Associates, an Albemarle Street gallery specializing in selling art to corporate customers.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New Jay in family tree

The naming of the latest addition to Peter Jay's family might look as if our former ambassador to the US and present chief of staff to Robert Maxwell is trying to flatter his boss. For Jay and his second wife Emma have blessed the boy, born last Saturday, with the name Samuel Arthur Maxwell. But Jay tells me that the child, his sixth, takes his

first name from the ancient Huguenot - as is his surname - and the second from his maternal grandfather. The third name, in fact, comes from Peter Jay's maternal grandfather, Maxwell Garrett, who, as well as being secretary to the League of Nations Association, was "a man I remember with much affection," says Jay. So there.

Duly noted

Analysts at yesterday's meeting for Ward White's half-year results tried to establish whether or not its poorly performing Owen Owen subsidiary was up for sale. But they were completely distracted by Philip Birch, the chairman, who told the tale of

the executive and the three envelopes. The joke goes that when a young thrusting executive takes over a new job, he asks his predecessor for sealed envelopes with strict instructions not to open them unless under stress or in difficulty. The first time he consults the oracle is at his first review, three months into the job. The advice says: "Blame your predecessor." He takes the advice and survives the meeting. The second time he is obliged to open an envelope is at his six-month review. This time the note tells him: "Blame the economy." That play is also successful. But the time eventually comes when he needs to open the third envelope. It reads: "Time to start writing the three envelopes." Birch assured the group, however, that Owen Owen's management were not at any stage of the envelope game.

Carol Leonard

Armstrong pre-tax profits slip to £7.1m

Armstrong Equipment, the Coventry-based shock absorber and industrial fastening systems producer, has reported a drop in pre-tax profits from £7.1 million to £7.1 million for the 53 weeks to July 2. Sales went up 10 per cent to £134.4 million.

The drop in profits came after problems at the company's shock absorber plant in York. The plant ran up stock-related discrepancies of up to £4 million when it bought higher-priced components from outside manufacturers which were accounted for at the lower internal price.

The company said yesterday that this had resulted in only a small pre-interest profit at York, despite increased volumes, compared with internal management expectations of an operating profit of £3 million.

Mr Roy Watts, the chairman, said all the company's divisions had achieved operating profits. The situation in York was now under control and he expected an improved performance.

A provision of £500,000 was made to cover disposals, down from last year's £13.3 million, and it has arranged a £50 million funding deal. Earnings per share fell to 10.5p from a previous 12.9p. The company declared a final dividend of 2.4p per share, making a total of 3.5p per share, 0.2p up on last year.

We've got news for Europe that's too big to keep under our hat.

Chiquita Brands Ltd, the world's leading fresh fruit company and purveyors of Chiquita bananas, has acquired 15 per cent of Pascual Hermanos, S.A.

Pascual Hermanos is Spain's biggest exporter of citrus products, and the move further strengthens Chiquita as the leading marketer of fresh fruit throughout Europe.

Pascual Hermanos has subsidiaries in twelve European countries, including West Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium and France.

The link with Chiquita Brands is also expected to help Pascual Hermanos promote its exports to the North American market, as well as to the Middle East and Far East.

The fit is ideal in other ways, too.

Chiquita's fresh fruit products - pineapples, grapefruits, melons and especially world famous Chiquita bananas - complement perfectly Pascual Hermanos' range of fresh produce, which is comprised mainly of citrus and a variety of fresh vegetables.



Chiquita



Farm subsidy war 'affecting trade'

By Colin Narbrough

An escalating subsidy war between exporters of farm goods, particularly between the European Economic Community and the United States, has severely affected world trade, according to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

In a report covering a six-month period beginning last October, the Geneva-based body says the trend towards increased subsidies was worsened by a drop in world prices, prompting more governments to boost compensation to agricultural producers.

The report comes as Gatt prepares for a halfway ministerial meeting in Montreal later this year to assess progress in the so-called Uruguay Round of talks aimed at freer trade in manufactures, farm products and financial services.

Gatt notes that voluntary restrictions have been maintained in some areas of trade, such as steel, cars and textiles.

● A British scheme to encourage more traditional farming is proving more popular with some growers than an EEC farmland set-aside plan, Reuters reports.

Under the scheme, farmers inside newly designated "environmentally sensitive areas" can claim a subsidy if they abandon fertilizers and pesticides and adopt environmentally sound methods.

Estates group in lease selloff to Christie's

By Rosemary Unsworth

Estates & General Investments is to develop the former market hall in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. It has also announced the sale of the head leasehold interest in Georgian House, St James's, London SW1, to Christie's, the auctioneers.

The Hanley deal consists of the redevelopment of the interior of a grade II-listed building. It will provide 20 specialist retail units. Building work starts next month and will take a year to complete.

Christie's £695,000 acquisition, comprising 27 residential apartments, will give the company more space in an area where it already has significant holdings.

HK growth poised to slow as inflation moves higher

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

Hong Kong is set for slower economic growth in the face of labour shortages and rising interest rates, Mr Piers Jacobs, the Financial Secretary, said last night.

Mr Jacobs, delivering his mid-year review, said he expected gross domestic product to rise by 6 per cent this year, compared with 13.5 per cent in 1987. For the average person GDP should reach HK\$73,100 (£5,516).

"Though a growth rate of 6 per cent is considerably slower than that achieved in 1986 and 1987, it would still mean that the economy had grown at an average of about 10 per cent per annum for three years, an enviable record by any standards," he said.

His estimate is below that of economists at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation who reckon the figure will be nearer 6.5 per cent, while economists at Nomura Research think that 8 per cent will be nearer the mark.

Inflation is set to increase, Mr Jacobs said, with prices rising by an average of 7.5 per cent for 1988, compared with 5.5 per cent in 1987.

Mr Jacobs chose "interdependence" as his theme,



"Adapt to challenges": Piers Jacobs, Financial Secretary

pointing out that Hong Kong's small, open economy was easily affected by its bigger trading partners.

"We are affected by external events beyond our control and in this situation it is clearly incumbent upon the Government to do all that it can to ensure that we are able to adapt to meet the new challenges that arise," he said.

Far from being worried about the slowing down in the economy, Mr Jacobs said: "Following two years of exceptional growth, the economy requires a period of consolidation." He added:

"This will not always be easy, and may on occasions be somewhat painful. But if we continue to plan and act with the longer term in view, there is no reason why we should be deflected from our quest for a stable and prosperous life for our whole community."

"With this slower growth rate, both the tight labour market and inflationary pressures should ease in due course, though possibly not during this year."

Mr Jacobs said he expected domestic exports for 1988 to increase by 6 per cent, in line with his March budget estimates, but re-exports should increase by 35 per cent, almost three times his forecast, reflecting the growing importance of Hong Kong as a middle-man in trade with China.

As a result, he expects the Crown Colony's total exports to increase by 20 per cent to HK\$471.7 billion.

The Financial Secretary said imports should rise by 20 per cent to HK\$478.1 billion this year, almost double his budget estimate.

Last night's speech was a far cry from the self-congratulatory oratory of a year ago, when Mr Jacobs chose "business confidence" as his mid-year theme "because I feel that so much has happened this year that is a manifestation of genuine and long-lasting confidence in the future of Hong Kong." Those words returned to haunt Mr Jacobs with a vengeance when one month later stock markets around the world went into decline, and the Hong Kong exchange shut for four days.

Profits up 34% to £5m at expansive Macro 4

By Wolfgang Münch

Macro 4, the independent producer of IBM software, reported a 34.1 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, to £5.51 million, for the year to June 30. Turnover went up 23.4 per cent, to £11.01 million.

Mr Terry Kelly, who was appointed executive chairman in July, said: "The group looks forward to continued growth from its firm international base of installed rental business."

He added that the company plans to accelerate the expansion of Macro 4 Inc. its US subsidiary, by establishing three regional offices. Last year, plans for a big acquisition were thwarted by the October crash, which led to an exceptional item of £400,000.

Earnings per share rose 32.5 per cent to 15.5p. A final dividend of 2.3p per share was declared, making a total of 3.9p, up 1.1p on last year.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 2,180	CU 1,015	Laporte 9	Saatchi 728
Alloy 885	Corn Gold 655	L&G 2,388	Sainsbury 700
Alto-Lyons 295	Cookson 388	Lloyds 1,019	Scott & N 1,247
Amsted 7,863	Courtauld 612	Lombard 4,382	Scott & N 1,247
ASDA 2,534	Dalrymple 1,563	Lucas 1,211	Sadgwick 1,079
AB Foods 48	Dee 1,563	Magnet 328	Shell 947
Argyll 3,049	Dixons 375	M&S 1,492	Slough 302
BAA 380	EDC 187	Messel Com 208	Smith & N 1,085
BET 157	Entorse 4,345	Metals 1,778	Smith & N 1,085
BTR 1,057	Ferranti 681	Midland 893	Stanton 288
BAT 1,822	Fisons 380	Midwest 1,267	Stanton 288
Barclays 1,256	F&I Black 880	Nest 1,184	Stanton 288
Basis 233	Gen Acc 167	Nth Food 135	Sun Alliance 207
Beacham 2,548	GEC 3,924	Pho 1,267	T & N 81
Beazer 151	Glen 2,167	Pearl 366	Tarmac 1,102
Bentley SW 350	Glynwed 52	Pearson 208	Tarmac 1,102
BICC 880	Gwynedd 1,189	Pitango 1,330	Tina 158
Blue Arrow 719	Granada 1,705	Plessey 1,784	Taylor Wood n/a
Blue Circle 380	Grant Mkt 380	Poly Pack 830	TSE 1,631
BOD 623	GUS A 551	Prudential 4,682	Thorn EMI 530
Bonga 2,015	GRE 551	RAC 653	Thorn EMI 530
BPS 300	Guinness 2,173	R&G 655	Thorn EMI 530
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Bunzl 119	Inchcape 192	Rover 3,818	Unilever 430
Burnham 388	Int'l 1,819	Rover 3,818	Unilever 430
Burton 1,819	Lasmo 23,594	Rover 3,818	Unilever 430
C&W 445	Ladbroke 1,188	Rover 3,818	Unilever 430
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WARD WHITE GROUP plc INTERIM RESULTS 1988

OPERATING PROFIT	£30.0m	UP 17%
PRE TAX PROFIT	£27.7m	UP 38%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	10.3p	UP 34%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	3.0p	UP 15%

- Home DIY products - Operating profit increase of 70% to £15.6m.
- Auto Accessories UK - Operating profit increase of 53% to £6.1m.
- Auto Accessories USA - Operating profit increase of 12% to \$10.9m.

"The strong improvement in profits has been achieved as a direct result of the Group's strategy of investing in businesses generating high quality earnings.

Our organic expansion programme, combined with the opportunities afforded by the A. G. Stanley acquisition, continues to provide impetus for long term growth and, once again, I look forward to another year of progress."

PHILIP BIRCH, CHAIRMAN.

THE CONTENT OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT, TAKEN FROM THE UNAUDITED INTERIM RESULTS OF WARD WHITE GROUP plc HAS BEEN APPROVED BY NATWEST INVESTMENT BANK LIMITED, A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES ASSOCIATION

ALBANY DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION PLC

(Registered Number: 2199338)

NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT OF SEPARATE GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SEPARATE GENERAL MEETING of the holders of the Ordinary Shares of the Company (fixed for 4.45 p.m. on Friday, 9th September, 1988 (the "original meeting"), has been adjourned until 4.45 p.m. on Friday, 23rd September, 1988 and will be held at 14 Fitzthum Street, Manchester Square, London W1H 9PL.

The Company's Articles of Association provide that the members or members present in person or by proxy at such adjourned meeting and entitled to vote shall have power to decide upon all matters which could properly have been decided at the original meeting.

Proxies received for the original meeting will be valid.

14th September, 1988

Registered Office: 246 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4PB

By Order of the Board: A. Matheson, Secretary

NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the Company (fixed for 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 9th September, 1988 (the "original meeting"), has been adjourned until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 23rd September, 1988 (or as soon thereafter as the Separate General Meeting of the holders of Ordinary Shares in the Company adjourned on the same date has been concluded or adjourned) and will be held at 14 Fitzthum Street, Manchester Square, London W1H 9PL.

The Company's Articles of Association provide that the members or members present in person or by proxy at such adjourned meeting and entitled to vote shall have power to decide upon all matters which could properly have been decided at the original meeting.

Proxies received for the original meeting will be valid.

14th September, 1988

Registered Office: 246 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4PB

By Order of the Board: A. Matheson, Secretary

NOTE: Holders of Ordinary Shares are entitled to attend at this meeting and are entitled to appoint one or more proxies to attend and vote on their behalf. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. Proxies of Proxy, to be valid, must be lodged not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 23rd September, 1988 at the offices of the Company's Registrars, Neville Rogers Limited, 42-46 Hagley Street, Birmingham B10 0PZ.

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Particulars of the registered office and articles of association of the company and the staff to be assigned to the project.

2. Certificate of professional qualification issued by an official body and stating the firm's speciality(ies).

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4. Turnover (last 3 years) and banker's references.

5. Several firms may form a consortium must then possess the required qualification and produce the necessary references. Their application should be submitted by their joint nominee, accompanied by the letter of agreement signed by all the members of the consortium.

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All applicants must be able to commute to the new West London TV Centre in Osterley in the New Year.

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DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Department of Clinical Sciences has been recently created as part of a major restructuring by the School, and will provide a base for the study of tropical medicine, communicable diseases, microbiology and clinical infectious diseases.

This post offers an exciting opportunity to provide administrative support to the new department in liaison with the School's Accounts and Personnel Offices, and with members of the department. A major part of the duties will entail financial administration, including budgetary control, accounts, budgeting and forward planning, and assisting with the preparation of research grant applications. In addition, the post holder will play a key role in ensuring a smooth transition to the new departmental structure.

We are looking for someone with initiative and strong organisational skills, and preferably with a background or experience of finance/accountancy.

Training will be provided, and will be geared to the particular needs of the post holder.

Starting salary will be in the range £10823 to £12456 inclusive, with excellent conditions, including membership of SALP pension scheme.

Please write with full curriculum vitae to: Hilda Abbott, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, or telephone 01 636 8630 and 281 for an application form and further particulars. Closing date 23 September 1988. Please quote reference G51.

PA/SECRETARY
TO MARKETING & SALES DIRECTOR
KNIGHTSBRIDGE - TO £13,000 AAE

This well established Overseas Property Development and Marketing Co. are looking for a Top PA to assist the new Marketing and Sales Director. Ideal opportunity to become fully involved in this newly created position. You must be lively and have an engaging personality, be well-organised and well-presented. There will be lots of client liaison and organisation, as well as general admin. Shorthand is essential 60 w.p.m. + and good typing with knowledge of WP.

EXCELLENT PERKS
Please phone Nathalie on 01 636 1483
Beverly Ltd.
(Rec Cons)

Insight

Subject Recruitment

P.A. OFFICE MANAGER

TO £13,500

Although a small subsidiary (30 people) of a major American publishing house, our client is making big moves in the children, educational and poetry markets. Currently P.A. to the Managing Director, you will also be the natural point of reference for all secretarial and editorial assistance. Recruitment and Personnel will also be main areas of concern.

Professionalism, good administrative skills and bags of initiative are vital. Age will not be a major concern, but it's likely the depth of experience we're looking for will mean you're at least 26. Short-hand (50 w.p.m.) is also essential.

Assistant To Administration Manager

One of the brightest and most innovative names in Advertising/Design has created this new position that will never fail to challenge.

Not a traditional secretarial role (although good, accurate typing is essential), you will be involved in everything from research through to customer liaison. Advertising experience is not essential.

An eye for detail, initiative and a natural instinct for responsibility are essential.

For more details call Barbara Carter or Pauline Robinson on Tel. (01) 379 0544 or Fax: 379 0801. Or send your curriculum vitae to Insight Recruitment, Garden Square, 11-13 Battersea Street, London W8 2JH 9BP.

Temps

Temp Coordinator Zandra Austin has jobs to suit what you want when you want them - covering all levels and areas. You show us good W.P., copy, shorthand or audio skills and we'll show you a wealth of opportunities. In addition you will be dealing with a company who spend time going to know you, your needs and your requirements before making any suggestions.

WEST END BANK.

c. £15,000 PACKAGE.

Would you like to earn a City salary without having City experience? Here is a golden opportunity to work in the West End whilst gaining valuable knowledge of the financial world. A director of this prestigious investment bank would like a secretary he can really involve in every aspect of his work. You will have closely with colleagues, co-ordinate diaries and meetings and become a vital part of the team. Skills 65/40/40, WP, luxury offices, superb benefits including generous overtime pay. Age 23-28. Please call Virginia Waince on 434 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Cinema Scope

A great chance to join the fast moving Film Franchising subsidiary of an international Entertainment Group As PA to the MD this is an opportunity to get involved in the dynamic worlds of Cinema Marketing and Advertising. The position involves orchestrating the efficient running of the office and arranging his many trips abroad. If you have good secretarial skills, are looking for £13,000 per annum and a career in an expanding and exciting company please call 01-409 1232 for details.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE WORK SHOP

Stylish Receptionist Advertising

c.£10,000

Do you have the personality and panache to be Head Receptionist for a small but highly successful Advertising Agency? Based in smart W.I. offices, your stylish presentation, welcoming telephone manner, flair for organisation and basic typing ability will be invaluable.

Age preferred 21-26. Please call our consultant on 01-631 0479.

Book Publishers Personal Assistant to MD

SALARY UP TO £13,000 PA

This is a challenging opportunity for a skilled, articulate professional with at least three years' experience at executive level, preferably in publishing.

The PA will report to and work closely with our dynamic MD, and responsibilities include liaison with authors, agents and editors, participating in meetings, efficient administration within the company and supervision of staff.

The successful candidate will be confident, assertive, possess excellent organisational skills and work well under pressure. Must be able to drive. WP/PC an advantage.

Applications in writing or delivery by hand due to post strike, enclosing CV to:

Faye Hyde
Personnel Officer
Quail & Wills, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1R 4EJ

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE 1992 BRITISH OLYMPIC TEAM

01-491 1868

RETAIL APPOINTMENTS

JOSEPH

LONDON PARIS CANNES NEW YORK TOKYO

We are now recruiting for the new JOSEPH store - 77 Fulham Road, London SW6 - opening end of September.

We require bright enthusiastic and fully experienced persons to join our sales team as full time, part-time and Saturday staff.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to 268 Brompton Road, London SW3.

Elaine Davis or Caroline White.

Tel: 01 589-3614

HOBSTONES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Upmarket Temping

To £15,000

Confident organising flair and first class secretarial skills are very much in demand by our most prestigious clients. So much so, that during the coming week we need to talk to many more people with sound shorthand/WP skills and immediate availability. The temporary assignments on offer are quite frankly exceptional. So too are the rewards. Long or short term, this is an opportunity you really shouldn't miss.

Age 23-47 Talk to Sue Doughty today on 01-493 5787.

GORDON YATES

Recruitment Consultants

FREEDOM

Family Fortunes

W1
£13,000

The friendly family atmosphere is enhanced by the beautiful surroundings of this listed building. The shorthand/PA who takes up this position must have knowledge of executive procedures.

Ref: 1340JN

197 Regent Street, W1
01-439 0303

For details of the branch nearest to you call the Freedom Hotline on 01-390 6822

Free Lunch

EC3
£12,500

Free lunch is one of the many benefits of working for this firm of investment bankers, which needs a bright shorthand Secretary to work for a Director and an Associate. Duties include PA tasks and setting up systems.

Ref: S3129

Unit 4, Cannon Street Station, EC4
01-929 7959

Triumvirate

EC3
£11,500

Three Directors of a large established insurance company are looking for a shorthand/PA Secretary to arrange their travel, keep their diaries and liaise with overseas clients. Knowledge of Wang WP preferred. Good perks are offered. Ref: W165.

65 Fenchurch Street, EC3
01-481 2661

Recruitment Drive

WC2
£11,000

A non-smoking Secretary/Administrator is required to work for a small company of executive recruitment consultants in PR and Marketing. Duties fall into a 60%-40% secretarial-admin. division. Excellent telephone manner is essential. Ref: 129.

80 Kingsway, WC2
01-405 9542

Back to Work?

W1
£11,000

This position as Copy Secretary might suit someone returning to work after a break. In addition to WP training, you will be offered a generous benefits package which includes pension, STI, BUPA and discounts on loans. Ref: S259.

54 South Molton Street, W1
01-491 4610

Pension Partner.

WC1
£10,000

Excellent prospects are offered to the Audio Secretary who joins the Pensions Department of this up-market firm of Actuaries, working at Partner level. Cross-training onto the IBM Multimate WP is available. Ref: W1217.

65 The Strand, WC2
01-836 8815

REED employment

SECRETARIES

Discover the fringe benefits of the world's largest management consultancy.

As you would expect of the world's largest and fastest growing management consultancy, Arthur Andersen is a pretty exceptional firm... Step inside our doors and take a lift to any one of our seven floors and you're soon conscious that Arthur Andersen has created a superb working environment.

Secretaries work with the latest Wang network technology which is built into the stylish, 'designer' furniture. Everywhere there is the hum of quiet efficiency... one secretary is organising a complex international itinerary for a Senior Partner... another, who specialises in recruitment, is organising a series of visits to top universities... another is helping to prepare a new 'graphics' presentation... and yet another secretary is sending an instant memo - via electronic mail - to a Manager in Chicago.

There is a very friendly, informal and fun atmosphere. One where secretaries can use their initiative, enjoy plenty of client contact and really contribute to our business rather than bash a keyboard all day (besides, there is a dedicated WP department for tackling lengthy reports and documents).

Flexitime also gives you the freedom to work the hours that suit you best. We work as a team, so you can arrange for others to provide cover for the occasional extended lunch break, late start or even early finish to the day. Alternatively, you can put in more hours and earn some extra overtime or add it to your holiday.

It all adds up to a great job with some very unexpected fringe benefits... Covent Garden is practically on our doorstep (a mere four minutes walk away), so there are a whole host of attractions which come with the job - shops, markets, restaurants, wine and cocktail bars, theatres, ballet and opera, dance studios, gymnasia, boutiques, clubs and pubs.

Naturally, we do expect you to be good. We look for a good education, 60wpm typing, proven secretarial skills, strong administrative flair and a sense of style. In return though, we offer up to £13,000, a top quality training, ability-based promotion prospects, subsidised restaurant, special discounts at selected stores plus, of course, a unique range of 'fringe' benefits.

Want to know more? Then call Jayne Thomas on 01-438 3164.

Alternatively, send your cv to her at: Arthur Andersen & Co., Management Consultants, 2 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3LT.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO

MEPC

shopping centres

PUBLIC PROPERTY COMPANY

Public property company based in Mayfair requires two capable secretaries to work for Development/Project Managers within its Shopping Centre Team. Applicants should possess fast, accurate skills and be able to demonstrate a high level of competence, initiative and professionalism coupled with a bright personality. Varied and interesting work with opportunity for some travel involved with our projects throughout the UK. Salary and benefits commensurate with the level of responsibility.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Janice White, Secretary to David E M Hall
Joint Managing Director, MEPC Developments Ltd
Brook House, 113 Park Lane
London W1Y 4AY

TV PRODUCTION

£8,000
This busy, fast-moving TV production company is looking for a bright, enthusiastic young secretary. If you have good shorthand and are happy working to deadlines as an integral part of a small, highly skilled team, then this is a unique opportunity to become completely involved in the world of television production.

01-493 0238
JUDY FISHER
ASSOCIATES
Recruitment Consultants

LITERARY AGENT

£11,500
Well established literary agent seeks bright, literate PA who will share his enthusiasm for the world of publishing and enjoys liaising with prize winning authors and publishers. You will have an excellent telephone manner, good spelling (100/60) and be educated to 'A' level standard. Publishing background an advantage.

01-493 0238
JUDY FISHER
ASSOCIATES
Recruitment Consultants

TEMPERATURE

London is returning to work after the Summer break and we need temps with good secretarial skills to help our clients in TV, FILMS, PUBLISHING, PR and MUSIC. Whether you need a few days temp work or a longer term assignment, call us now for friendly professional help.

01-493 0238
JUDY FISHER
ASSOCIATES
Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY/PA TO MANAGING PARTNER OF CITY FIRM OF SURVEYORS

This position is busy and varied. I am looking for someone who has a well organized approach to their work and the ability to use their initiative. In addition to providing a confidential secretarial service, including typing and word processing (shorthand an asset but not essential), you will be expected to undertake a variety of administrative tasks including an element of PR, organisation of functions and ensuring the smooth running of the office.

If you have confidence, a sense of humour and a good telephone manner and are 25+, please telephone:
Jane Fishburn
Kensley Whitley & Parris
01-493 2877
(NO AGENCIES)

Personnel Prospects

Parsons Green

Sales Promotion, Film and Video, Conferences and Travel give you some idea of the diversity of service offered by our client, one of the UK's largest Marketing Consultancies. Their Personnel/Finance Director seeks a professional, highly-motivated PA to work take on a rewarding and stimulating role; setting up company induction and training schemes; co-ordinating office management and personnel recruitment as well as providing full PA back up. Computer experience and sound secretarial skills essential. Salary £12,000 plus superb benefits. Call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SECRETARY/P.A.

A Senior Partner at one of the leading International Search Firms is looking for a Secretary/P.A. This is a very confidential role and will probably not suit anybody under 23. The ability to work on your own, be quick, neat and accurate is essential. Your personal presentation must be excellent as you have to meet and talk to executives at a senior level. Good personality and lots of common sense are necessary as is good shorthand and word processing experience. Excellent salary and benefits are offered to the right person.

Please forward your full C.V. to:
Claire Murray
The Caldwell Partners International
59 Catherine Place
London SW1

PA/Secretary to Partner

CENTRAL LONDON SURVEYORS

This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious secretary with enthusiasm and drive, to play a responsible role in a successful, medium-sized surveying practice. If you are confident, with an articulate telephone manner and IBM/audio experience, you could be the right person for this challenging position.

Working in a friendly, lively environment, you will be expected to provide the polite, efficient service that our clients have come to expect.

In return you can expect excellent benefits; a generous salary, pension, life assurance and health schemes.

Write or telephone initially to Mrs E. Furry at 56/62 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1DH. Tel: 01-834 8454

EDWARD SYMONS & PARTNERS
LONDON MANCHESTER LIVERPOOL BRISTOL SOUTHAMPTON

Research Opportunity to £13,000

Prestigious executive search company has a vacancy for an intelligent graduate secretary to provide back-up to a senior consultant. While using your secretarial skills, you will also be given the opportunity to conduct your own research. Excellent opportunity for involvement. Skills 50/50/audio/wp.

Conferences to £13,000

The Sales and Marketing Department of a major firm of conference organisers needs a highly competent young secretary to support a team of 4. You'll need to be numerate, confident and energetic. The company is young, progressive and will promote employees who prove their worth. Skills: 60 wpm and wp.

Marketing £10,000

A rapidly expanding marketing agency would like a further graduate secretary (we've already found 3 for them during 1988) to support an account group. Excellent learning opportunity with real promotion prospects for someone determined to make a career in marketing. You'll need at least 9 months' secretarial experience and sound typing/wp skills.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET, W1 01-493 7267

Fashion Exclusive!

Fabulous opening for a composed, discreet and socially-confident PA to work alongside one of the most famous names in fashion! She is extremely high-profile and needs a strong, diplomatic PA with lots of initiative to shield her from the intrusive media. You are self-assured, stylish and a natural communicator at home with international liaison, a VIP clientele and extensive personal work. If you have sound secretarial skills and are able to work conscientiously without supervision, you'll relish this one-off opportunity. Age 21+. Call 01-409 1232 for details.

Recruitment Consultants to the Communications Industry

PR IN CHELSEA

An exciting opportunity for bright college leaver/2nd jobber in small but growing King's Road PR company. Non-smoker, good shorthand/typing and a sense of humour required. Salary circa £9,000.

Call: Tracey Simons 01-351 7257

SECRETARY

Opportunity for a bright young secretary, possibly a college leaver with excellent skills to join dynamic and fast moving national and public relations consultancy in SW1. Duties to include reception, telephone work, typing, clerical and administrative support. Salary negotiable according to age and experience. Please telephone:
MISS TERESA BAKER
STUART BYSSOP EDITORIAL SERVICES
01 731 8594

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

Required for friendly Harley Street Dental practice. Knowledge of Dentistry would be preferable.
01-580 3331/2.

T.V. PROMOTIONS

Director of small flourishing TV promotions Company in the West End needs a right hand with excellent secretarial skills including shorthand and WP and heaps of energy and enthusiasm. Salary very negotiable.
01 438 0046

MEDIA • FINANCE • ADVERTISING • SALES • PERSONNEL • MEDIA

Knightsbridge Property c. £12,000

Based in beautiful, Knightsbridge offices, this prestigious and profitable property company are looking for a PA/Secretary.

You will be joining the Company at an exciting time of expansion, working with two, young ambitious Associate Directors, who are definitely going places. They are involved in the acquisition, management and development of hotel properties some of the success stories have to be seen to be believed!

If you are aged 20-26 with an outgoing personality and an interest in Property with skills of 50wpm typing and WP, please contact Mandy Orway on 01-439 6021 for further information.

HAZELL • STATON
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

MEDIA • FINANCE • ADVERTISING • SALES • PERSONNEL • MEDIA

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY To £16,000 + Mortgage Subsidy

Head of Bonds seeks MoneyPenny to carry out various assignments within city stockbroking firm. Flex your finely tuned mind when organising top tier meetings and providing confidential back-up to this busy member of the board. Major elements of this operation will include sleuthing his in-tray, decoding his telephone messages, communicating via the network and running the office when your boss is called away unexpectedly. Even Q would approve of the hi-tech control room! Highly trained secretaries with initiative, poise and skills of 100/60/WP are invited to apply. For an immediate interview please telephone Anna Stubbings or Margaret Tully on 588 3535.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MEDIA • FINANCE • ADVERTISING • SALES • PERSONNEL • MEDIA

Antiques, Objets d'art... College Leaver

Superb first career role for a flexible, outgoing College Leaver with this prestigious Association. Working closely with their charming and very approachable Secretary General, you will be providing secretarial support; organising caterers; liaising with dealers; helping to produce the annual yearbook as well as attending and helping to set up a prestigious annual Antiques Fair. Exceptionally friendly, small team environment. Sound skills (80/50) essential. Age 18+. Salary £9,000. To know more call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

BUSINESS AFFAIRS Secretary

Due to an internal promotion, CBS Records is now looking for a Secretary to work for our Senior Director of Business Affairs.

You must possess good shorthand and typing skills, together with experience of the w.p. - ideally IBM Displaywrite 36 but we will cross-train. Just as important though is an organised mind and the ability to deal with people at all levels. This is an ideal opportunity for an experienced secretary to join the informal atmosphere of a record company in a senior secretarial role.

If you would like to join the U.K.'s No. 1 record company and enjoy the benefits of a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package, then please forward your c.v. to me together with details of your current salary:

Carole Love, Personnel Assistant, CBS Records, 17/19 Soho Square, London W1V 6HE.

CBS

FLEXIBLE SENIOR SECRETARY

West End based Swedish Property Finance Company seek senior secretary (25+) to cope with 3 Directors. Must enjoy team work and dealing with clients. Good education, smart appearance and confident telephone manner essential. Initiative required to deal with varied duties. Audio & WP/Computer experience necessary.

Salary £13,000 negotiable

1 week's holiday

Telephone 01 878 8605

The Country Touch...

To £13,000 - Ceramics

Our client, an influential and exclusive Ceramic Designer, seeks a highly organised, socially confident PA/Administrator to join a small, close-knit team. This is a busy, involved appointment where you will be the administrative focal point behind a fascinating workshop - liaising with exclusive retail outlets; taking orders; issuing invoices and undertaking general bookkeeping. A team-orientated outlook and a conscientious, friendly manner are essential. A converted warehouse provides an exceptional working environment. Sound typing? Call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

INTERIOR DESIGN SW1

£9,500
SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Varied & interesting position for someone who is well spoken, with book keeping and computer experience, plus plenty of initiative, working for top designer in young & exciting company.

Call: Pippa on 01 628 6270
DEREK FROST ASSOCIATES

LETTINGS ASSISTANT

Required by Knightsbridge based Property Company, to become involved in the running of holiday/company lettings operation. Duties will include lettings and general secretarial duties.

Salary & benefits package negotiable.
Contact Pegasi Management Company Limited, 207 Sloane Street, LONDON, SW1X 9QX.
For the attention of Lucy J Moon.
Tel: 01 245 1911

CHAIRMAN'S PA c. £13,000

This young and successful chairman will rely on your good organisational skills to ensure that his office runs smoothly. Typing is minimal and some German or Italian, though not essential, would be useful. A real opportunity to use your initiative and responsibility. Age 25+.

Please call 01-488 0247

Early/late appointments arranged.

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants

18 Grosvenor Street London W1

45 Minutes with **DRAKE PERSONNEL**

ADVERTISING PA

£12,000
The MD of this fast-moving Advertising agency needs completely organising! As his right-hand person you will organise in-house client lunches - liaising with caterers and ensuring everything goes well, arrange frequent travel itineraries to Germany, Belgium and Holland, so relevant languages would be a distinct advantage. Supervisory skills are essential as you will be responsible for delegating to a secretary/receptionist. Typing necessary, shorthand useful.
Call Sarah Masdel on 01-831 0666.

VARIETY, VARIETY, VARIETY

£12,000
As senior secretary in this firm of Commodity Brokers your great WP/audio skills will be appreciated by a charming group of directors. The relaxed atmosphere and attractive decor make this a lovely working environment. Every day you will find different aspects make your role varied and interesting, so if you enjoy client liaison and would like to know more
Call Lisa Latner on 01-831 0666.

HIGH SOCIETY

£15,000
Your style and poise will grace these exquisite offices which house superb restaurant, social, shopping and sports facilities. As PA to the Chairman of this magnificent blue-chip company total involvement will mean organising executive meetings, charming VIP's, arranging entertainment, liaising with top directors and handling administration. A sense of humour and social awareness are crucial ingredients for your success.
Call Nicola Grant on 01-623 1226.

PEOPLE ORIENTATED

£15,000
Fabulous offices, a superb atmosphere and amazing staff facilities await you when you assist the Manpower Resources Director in charge of this massive blue chip organisations' Personnel Department. He's charming, with a great sense of humour, and will ensure your total involvement with policy and procedure implementation. Your confident approach, excellent shorthand and secretarial talents and organisational prowess will be of paramount importance.
Call Michelle Green on 01-623 1226.

FILM FESTIVALS

£10,000
Take advantage of this rare opportunity in a film production company to really develop your confidence and business skills. You will be part of a small but friendly team who specialise in "whacky" comedy and horror movies. You will take part in the Cannes Film Festival, negotiate contracts worldwide and co-ordinate publicity trailers with film producers. Shorthand and typing are essential. If you're interested and would like to know more
Call Ruth Morgan on 01-846 9787

Change your life today!



GO FOR GOLD

Temping with Hobstones is an ideal way to explore the job market while earning top rates - to **£8.00** an hour.

If you have good WP skills, particularly WANG, Multimate and Displaywrite 4 and are looking for varied and fun jobs in the City or West End, please call us now.

CITY: 247 4354
(by Liverpool St.)

WEST END: 437 6032
(by Piccadilly Circus)

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SYNERGY+ Recruitment

Chelsea Estate Agents £10,000
Lively, friendly and capable? Escape from humdrum routine and join two busy negotiators if you are good at organising people and paper-work. Ability to cope with the unexpected. Typing 50wpm. Audio or 80wpm shorthand. Call Helen Close
01-637 9533

SYNERGY+ Recruitment

Design Assistant
Make a creative career move into young friendly graphics company in SWS. Busy exciting position using WP skills. Paste-up experience helpful or training given if you're artistic.
£8,500
Call Karen Davies
01-637 9533

Recruitment Receptionist/Secretary

Good at looking after people and putting them at ease? Then enjoy lots of people contact in person and on the telephone with our expanding West End consultancy. Play a positive part too in all aspects of office administration and back-up the consultants, with every opportunity to learn the business and develop your role.
Typing 45wpm/WP training. **£10,000**
LOVE + TATE
Recruitment Consultants
288 Regent Street W1 01-637 3303

Synergy+ Recruitment

Polished PA to £13,000
Enjoy working closely with your boss to ensure the smooth running of the office? Take pride in turning out immaculate reports and presentations at Board level? This is a challenging position with a well-known advertising agency where your excellent communication and organising skills will be used to the full. Skills: typing 50wpm+. Shorthand rusty.
Call Catherine Offer on 01-637 9533.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

INTERIOR DESIGNERS W1
£14,000
Challenging position for somebody with payroll and admin skills. Typing required for own correspondence, excellent opportunity for someone who wants to become involved. Experience in a similar position helpful - hard work well rewarded with first class benefits.
Call Sally Dennis today on 225 8427, 4 Post St, SW1

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

PA/ADMINISTRATOR FOR 'AN AMERICAN IN LONDON'
£16,000
A charming American investment Consultant is looking for a highly organised person to act as his PA in his London office. The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of his office. 1st class secretarial skills are essential. (80 wpm audio + WP) together with some admin experience, personality and plenty of enthusiasm. This would suit a 25-35 year old who really needs to grow with the job.
Call Sally Dennis today on 225 8427, 4 Post St, SW1

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

START UP IN W1
£15,000
This is a young company wanting to attract 25-35 year olds. The MD is of the 50s. There will be plenty of opportunity to turn your hand to all aspects of a busy office. 1st class secretarial skills are essential. (80 wpm audio + WP) together with some admin experience, personality and plenty of enthusiasm. This would suit a 25-35 year old who really needs to grow with the job.
Call Sally Dennis today on 225 8427, 4 Post St, SW1



Secretary/P.A. to Senior Executive

Salary from £11,350 including allowances plus substantial benefits package.
This is an excellent opportunity for you to assist the North London Area Manager of one of the UK's largest insurance companies during a period of major restructure and consolidation.
You will be working in a challenging environment and be able to utilise your initiative, organising and personal skills, to the full in liaison with major customers, and the senior management team.
Attention to detail: fast accurate word processing (shorthand essential), the ability to work with minimal supervision and produce correspondence including concise reports (meetings and otherwise) on own initiative are vital requirements.
The successful applicant will be expected to embrace new technology.
Applications are invited from well educated candidates with at least three years experience of working with senior management.
If you are aged 25+ and want to know more about this permanent position write with full C.V. and details of current salary to:
Miranda Jennings, Senior Recruitment Assistant, Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd., 81 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD1 1BT. Tel: 0992 854188.
We are an Equal Opportunities Employer

CITY OF ANGELS

LEGAL PA. \$15,000 + mort sub, profit share, bonus
A well-educated, experienced legal secretary will quickly settle in EC2. As PA to this bank's legal advisor there's liaison across the board, ample administration & some supervising. If you're 30+, you'll find the benefits couldn't be better - LVs, cheap loans, 32 days hol...and all appropriately close to Bank Stn.
PERSONNEL ADMIN ASSISTANT to \$13,500
Not secretarial by any means, but you will need basic typing for this oil company close to Blackfriars. All round variety includes dealing with S&P, relocation procedures, expenses & payroll, there's potential for progress plus lunches, share options & STL. Suit graduate/A level candidate with personnel experience. Full WP training given.

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT SEC to \$14,000 + perks.
This highly reputed bank near the stn of the same name need a senior secretary with faultless skills (90/55wpm s/hand & WP) for admin backup in Corporate Development. Confidentiality requires confidence, maturity & quick thinking for subs mortgage, profit share, bonus, LVs, 22 days hol.
Call TONY HAYCOCKS, 01 606 0011 or 01 489 8261

Office Angels
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

COOL DOWN A HOT PROPERTY

Dynamic but somewhat disorganised marketing chief of top West End property company urgently needs tough minded PA to restore order and help the exec to plan each hectic day. Ideal if you like a job with plenty of action! You'll need several years' Wang/audio experience.
Age 25/28.
£13k negotiable + benefits.
Call us now.
Bernadette of Beauchamp Place
Recruitment Consultants
181/187 Regent St, SW1 01-637 4422

ONLY 30% SECRETARIAL

The rest of your time with this busy US bank in the West End will be spent in advising as PA to a senior executive involved in personnel. Lots to do and plenty of projects for you to get your teeth into. You need WP and 80/50 skills. £12k + 5% mortgage and excellent benefits.
Call us now.
Bernadette of Beauchamp Place
Recruitment Consultants
181/187 Regent St, SW1 01-637 4422

COOL DOWN A HOT PROPERTY

Dynamic but somewhat disorganised marketing chief of top West End property company urgently needs tough minded PA to restore order and help the exec to plan each hectic day. Ideal if you like a job with plenty of action! You'll need several years' Wang/audio experience. Age 25/28.
£13k negotiable + benefits.
Call us now.
Bernadette of Beauchamp Place
Recruitment Consultants
181/187 Regent St, SW1 01-637 4422

Dec Mate Olivetti 2010 BM Displaywrite

SEER
Seer Selection
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
Tel: 01-631 0479

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£18,000 package
Two men board directors and an investment executive are looking for a professional and career minded PA to join their team. They are responsible for marketing to top city executives and need you to plan campaigns and organise their conferences. As people they are known to be genuine and happy to delegate additional responsibilities.
The bulk of your role will be organizational. You will have had a good secretarial background and be keenly looking for more responsibility and involvement.
You must be confident of your communication skills, adept at organization and planning and have the poise and presentation to handle top international executives.
Age 23-30. Skills 80/50.
City Office
600 0286
ANGELA MORTIMER

SECRETARIAL CAREERS

SEEK TO HIRE
£12,000 - 18,000
We offer a permanent top PA to assist the MD of a major City firm. The PA will be responsible for all aspects of the MD's office. 1st class secretarial skills are essential. (80 wpm audio + WP) together with some admin experience, personality and plenty of enthusiasm. This would suit a 25-35 year old who really needs to grow with the job.
RECEPTION
£12,000 - 18,000
Great WP & 80/50 skills. A busy & fast paced receptionist role in a major City firm. The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of the receptionist's role. 1st class secretarial skills are essential. (80 wpm audio + WP) together with some admin experience, personality and plenty of enthusiasm. This would suit a 25-35 year old who really needs to grow with the job.
TRAVELLING P.A.
£12,000 - 18,000
Great WP & 80/50 skills. A busy & fast paced travelling PA role in a major City firm. The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of the travelling PA's role. 1st class secretarial skills are essential. (80 wpm audio + WP) together with some admin experience, personality and plenty of enthusiasm. This would suit a 25-35 year old who really needs to grow with the job.
WIRE & REEL
£12,000 - 18,000
Great WP & 80/50 skills. A busy & fast paced wire & reel role in a major City firm. The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of the wire & reel role. 1st class secretarial skills are essential. (80 wpm audio + WP) together with some admin experience, personality and plenty of enthusiasm. This would suit a 25-35 year old who really needs to grow with the job.
ANN WARRINGTON SECRETARIAL CAREERS
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22 Baldwin Street
Bristol BS1 1SE
0272-299998

EDINBURGH
29 Frederick Street
Edinburgh EH2 2ND
031-226 5951

GLASGOW
21 West Nile Street
Glasgow G1 2PS
041-226 5888

CRAWLEY
40 The Boulevard
Crawley RH10 1XP
0293-540521

STRATFORD
72 The Broadway
Stratford E15
01-519 6343

HOLBORN
96 High Holborn
London WC1
01-831 0666

WEMBLEY
11 Park Lane
Wembley
01-903 4901

VICTORIA
150 Victoria Street
London SW1
01-834 0388

WEST END
225 Regent Street
London W1
01-734 0911

KENSINGTON
10 Pembridge Road
London W11
01-221 5072

BOND STREET
72 New Bond Street
London W1
01-355 4878

CROYDON
6 Suffolk House
George Street
Croydon, Surrey
01-688 5698

CITY
Plantation House
31-35 Fenchurch St.
London EC3
01-623 1226

HAMMERSMITH
14 The Broadway
Hammersmith W6
01-846 9787

GENEVA
2 Rue Verdaine
Case Postale 604
1211 Geneva 3-Rive

ZURICH
Kasernenstrasse 11
Postfach
8021 Zurich

PA SECRETARY
£11,000. W1. Assisting Director of this exclusive Archimedes firm. Audio/WP lots of perks.
SHORTHAND PA SEC
£12,000. W1. Interest/varied position. Assisting director of Design Co. Cross train WP. Lots of involvement.
ANDREW SECRETARY
£11,500. Secretary to Partner in small C/A firm. Dealing with very interesting clients.
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Continued on next page

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Britain's largest women's organisation is looking for an Administrative Assistant in the department which runs support trading stalls. Duties include administering courses, conferences, maintaining statistical records and some committee work.
Candidates should be 23+ with the ability to use their own initiative and work without close supervision, as they will be expected to deputise for the head of department in her absence. They should possess excellent administrative/secretarial skills, a good telephone manner, be numerate, with enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Non smoker essential.
Salary around £11,500 per annum according to experience.
Applications by letter (including CV) to be addressed to the Personnel Department, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 39 Eccleston Street, London SW1W 9NT to arrive not later than 30 September 1988.

USS UNIVERSITIES SUPERANNUATION SCHEME PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE SURVEYOR

£13,500 + B.U.P.A. City S.H. 80 wpm/Typing 60 wpm
USS is one of the largest private superannuation schemes in the country and a Property Department has recently been created to oversee the Company's £800m property portfolio.
The newly appointed Surveyor requires a calm but energetic person to assist in establishing the Department and to provide a full and confidential secretarial service. Work will be interesting, varied and demanding and involve considerable contact with professional advisers. Experience within a property organisation is desirable. Additionally, the applicant must be capable of communicating at the highest executive level.
The successful applicant will probably be educated to at least 'A' level standard and be a non-smoker. Preferred age range 30-50 years.
The post is based at Cannon Street, but applicants should, in the first instance, send their c.v. to: The Company Secretary, USS Ltd, Richmond House, Rumbold Place, Liverpool L3 9FD. Tel. 051-227 4711

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/PA
£17,000 W1
As Secretary/PA to one of the Directors of this large multi-national company, you would need to have excellent communication skills. Shorthand & multimate with a capital 'T'. In return, the benefits are numerous. Free sports club & staff meals, discounts, personal services and a lovely position where you can fully utilise your varied skills. Please Sarah at
MASTERLOCK RECRUITMENT
01 548 9925

AN ECONOMIC WHIZZ?
£15,000
You need initiative, previous experience in an economics environment + good shorthand and wordprocessing skills to become Secretary to the Economist at a major bank in EC2. Age 25-35, great benefits package including mortgage.
Call 01-377-8600
Fax 01-375-1950
SECRETARIES PLUS
The Referral Consultants

MONSOON

We require a secretary to work for our Financial Director in our busy offices in Hammersmith.
You must be hard working and flexible, with good shorthand and typing skills - would suit college leaver.
Salary negotiable, plus generous clothing allowance and 50% discount.
Telephone: Sophie or Joanna on 01 741 5306/9341

LEGAL AUDIO/PA
Intelligent secretary with top experience required for dynamic company commercial solicitor in W1. Must be a native speaker, reliable and non smoker. Legal experience a bonus but not essential. Salary negotiable up to £11,000. May Mr Charles 020 4999

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If you have sound skills and experience, you should be talking to The Work Shop.
Telephone Sue Cooke on 01-409 1232.

BILINGUAL SALES ADMINISTRATOR
If you are fluent in German (preferably taken to degree level), organised, numerate, ambitious and motivated, good on the telephone and used to working on your own in a sales environment, please apply to Mrs M. Koenig, Dynamit Nobel (UK) Ltd, Edinburgh House, 43-51 Windsor Road, Slough, Berks. SL1 2HL. Tel: 0753 71851.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
PERSONAL SECRETARY
Professor R. Wilson CBE FRS, Head of the Department of Physics & Astronomy at University College London, requires a personal, confidential secretary. The successful candidate will be expected to have the appropriate qualifications and experience for such a senior post.
Salary within range £8351 - £12,223 p.a. inclusive.
Applications to Liz Bradley, Personnel Officer, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Equal Opportunities Employer.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
Personal Secretary
required to work SCHOOL TERMS ONLY for busy Head of History of Art Department. Good shorthand and typing required together with W.P. skills although cross-training will be given. Contact with staff and students in a stimulating environment. Salary pro rata £9081 - £9638 p.a. Applications in writing to Liz Bradley, Personnel Officer, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Equal Opportunities Employer.

PA SECRETARY
£11,000. W1. Assisting Director of this exclusive Archimedes firm. Audio/WP lots of perks.
SHORTHAND PA SEC
£12,000. W1. Interest/varied position. Assisting director of Design Co. Cross train WP. Lots of involvement.
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£11,500. Secretary to Partner in small C/A firm. Dealing with very interesting clients.
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CLAYMAN
9-15 RIFORD STREET W1

Our very successful Property Development Company in new offices in Mayfair has the following vacancies:-

SECRETARY

Required to provide full secretarial support for two of our directors. In addition applicants should be prepared to take on the general administration of this office. Salary by negotiation. If you possess a good sense of humour, are highly efficient, fully dedicated and have excellent secretarial skills, why not call us on

01 229 1282 Ext 2264
Quote Ref: MS1

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST/SECRETARY

As front line image of this rapidly expanding company, your outgoing personality, tact and good audio/typing skills will be exercised to their full potential. In return, we offer a very competitive salary. If you fit the image, please ring us on

01 229 0896
Quote Ref: VAN1

(strictly no agencies)

Psychological Advantage To £13,000

Fascinating role for a level-headed self-starter within the office environment of this small expanding concern involved in personnel psychology assessments for multinational and individual clients. As a key member of a close-knit team you'll be liaising with clients; setting up meetings, co-ordinating consultants etc. The ability to work on your own initiative, cope with elementary accounts and oversee the admin function of a busy office essential. Accurate typing (35 wpm) requested. Call 01 493 0713 for further details

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

Elite Reception To £12,000

A well-groomed, socially-extrovert professional Receptionist is sought to grace the stunning Group HQ of this major force in Marketing and Communications. Due to their rapid expansion they have recently acquired sumptuous Victoria based offices. Your role will include entertaining journalists and the media so you need to be self-confident, quick-thinking and flexible. Varied duties and secretarial ability desirable for expanding role. Age 20-28. Please call 01-493 5787 for details.

GORDON-YATES

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ADMIN SECRETARY IN MARKETING

A renowned company which devises marketing strategies for its clients is looking for an Admin/Secretary to work directly for its senior manager and as liaison point for its strategy group. You should be the sort of person who wants to develop your job and has the confidence to deal at high level on a regular basis, prepare and attend workshops for clients, organise presentations and remain calm at all times. Good skills are required for this challenging job. Age 28. Speeds 90/60.

Please call us for an interview until 6.00pm.
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You're quick. You're smart.
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You don't want to temp just any old where. You want top agency work, and top rates.
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Call her today - 01-379 7007
Recruitment Consultants

KNIGHTSBRIDGE PROPERTY COMPANY

Rec: P.A. to entrepreneurial Chairman of property company. Must be self-motivated, numerate, well presented and able to cope under pressure. Sound secretarial skills. Driving licence essential. £15,000

Receptionist/Secretary. Must be cheerful and well presented. Good telephone manner essential to cope with busy switchboard. Knowledge of w.p. preferred. £10,000.

Telephone: 01-581 5351

Rec: Cons 01 255 1555

01-255 1555

CHARTLEIGH Appointments

PA IN THEATRE £5,500
Has it always been your dream to work for a London theatre? The Director of London's leading theatrical company requires a young PA secretary to assist him with the daily running of the business. WP skills essential. An exciting career start! Ref: MA.

NEWSFLASH £11,000
The PA provides into practice when you join this up market property company. Within this lively and exciting environment your duties will be varied. WP and good secretarial skills however will be your key to success.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE SEC £11,700
At the apex of a growing one-stop with a database specialist of a respected software house, then the ideal position awaits a competent secretary. WP and shorthand skills will obtain an immediate interview. Ref: CC.

PERSONNEL PROWESS (TEMP) £7.00 per hour
Excellent to month assignment for someone with sound secretarial skills plus some administration experience to work within the busy personnel department of this expanding computer consultancy. WORDPERFECT skills are essential for this responsible position.

URGENT - BLUE CHIP PROPERTY CO IN RALING RECRUITING A 5000 WP SEC £10,500

41 KNOTHOLM RD, KNOTHOLM, SW3 1DE
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01-255 3140

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Picture the colours of an artist's palette, the depth of hue, the light and shade. Our client creates a painting from the blooms of exquisite flowers... Their success is phenomenal and their endless creativity leaves you speechless... They currently seek an experienced, meticulously-organised Administrator to oversee the smooth running of the office. As well as going to site meetings to meet the clients, you will be involved in all aspects of credit control, to numeracy is essential. Exclusive clientele. Fabulous atmosphere. Call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

FINANCIAL TIMES CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Is looking for a
CONFERENCE SECRETARY

One of the world's leading conference organisations, based in the West End, is seeking to recruit a conference secretary to join its successful team organising international conferences.

Essential requirements are good shorthand and typing or word processing skills, the ability to work under pressure plus a good standard of education.

Benefits include 5 weeks annual leave, matched vouchers and a season ticket loan scheme.

If you have office experience and would like to work for an organisation which can offer you an opportunity to develop your career then send a comprehensive CV to Bernadette Flynn, Personnel Department, Financial Times, 100 Cannon St, London EC4A 3DF or alternatively telephone on 01-236 9758 for an application form.

No Agencies, thank you

P.A./SECRETARY

For Chairman of small, successful firm of International Estate Agents and Surveyors near Piccadilly Circus.

Self-motivated with sound secretarial skills/audio V.P. (Shorthand useful but not essential). Must be well-spoken with an outgoing personality and used to communicating with clients at all levels.

Age 23+. Salary £14K plus.

Send C.V. (by fax 01-930 1381, by hand or post) in confidence to:

Lynda,
James Andrew Badger,
Trafalgar Square,
11, Waterloo Place,
London, SW1Y 4AU.

NO AGENCIES

JUDY FISHER ASSOCIATES

01-493 0238
Recruitment Consultants

01-255 1555

SHAPE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE North Atlantic Treaty Organisation located near Mons, Belgium

seeks:

EXPERIENCED SHORTHAND TYPISTS

Ref: T/SCL/09/88

SHAPE offers challenging work in an international environment with Community life, social activities and sporting facilities. SHAPE is ideally located on the Continent with good connections to the UK and many European towns.

In order to be considered, candidates must be nationals of NATO member countries and aged between 21 and 45 years. A good education, preferably a minimum of two GCE A levels, at least two years office experience and speeds of 90/45 wpm shorthand/typing are required.

Previous experience of word-processing and a knowledge of French are both assets.

Net starting monthly tax-free salary is approx £947. Fringe benefits include pension scheme and generous medical care plan. Staff members are entitled to six weeks paid annual leave plus two weeks home leave every two years.

Typewritten personal resume and handwritten cover letter giving full particulars (including which types of two systems legal and clerical) the above reference should be post-marked not later than 7 October 1988 and forwarded to the following address:

Recruitment Officer
LOGSHEAF-FLC
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE
BFPO 26

Official application forms will only be sent to suitable potential candidates for further consideration and tests/interviews for those who further quality will be held in London at the end of November/beginning of December 1988.

Candidates who successfully pass the tests and interviews will be placed on a reserve list of candidates for consideration for future vacancies.

Executive Suite

Confidential, discreet PA sought by the high-profile Senior Partner of this prestigious Professional consultancy. He's a policy maker with extensive outside interests and exceptional constraints on his time. You are capable, exceedingly well-organised with the ability to prioritise tactfully and with foresight. As well as normal PA duties (shorthand useful) you'll be proofreading speeches; juggling a hectic appointments schedule; suggesting improvements whenever possible. Age 30-50. Superb benefits. Call 01-493 5787.

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE K SECRETARIES

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TOP RATES

You will be appreciated and looked after temping for us. With the increased demand for high calibre temps from our clients in all areas we are always looking for additional members for our Professional team. If you have 100/60 + WP skills especially Multitasking, Displaywrite 3 & 4, Wang, Burroughs, Wordperfect and Wordstar, Olivetti 280 and 351, come in and see us now or telephone for an immediate interview.

Call Sally Owens or Vervan Sharp
on 235 8427,
4 Post St, SW1

EXPERIENCED RECEPTIONIST

Wanted for busy firm of West End Headhunters.

- Responsible, efficient person
- Well groomed appearance
- Cheerful personality
- Some typing ability

PLEASE TELEPHONE
ANNE PITCAITHLY
on 01 935 8978

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

Urgently required by the publishers of HALT The International Magazine of Fine Carpets and Textiles. Essential skills: Good telephone, Fast accurate typing. Some shorthand. Word processing a definite advantage. Hours 9am-5pm. Salary £8,000 - £8,500 pa.

Please apply with full CV to:
HALI PUBLICATIONS LTD
Kingsgate House, Kingsgate Place
LONDON NW6 4TA
OR Telephone (01) 328 9341

INDEPENDENT HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION

Representative body for Independent Hospitals seeks an assistant to arrange committee meetings, maintain computer records and liaise with I.H.A. members. Good secretarial skills including WP experience and a pleasant telephone manner essential. A' levels and a background in the health care industry preferred.

Salary to £9,500. Telephone 01-430 0537.

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS REQUIRE A SECRETARY/PA

To work in their friendly, busy W1 office. She must be competent with WP experience. Ideal in handling enquiries over the telephone and able to work on own initiative. Age 23+. Salary by negotiation but above average.

Tel 01-629 4988.
NO AGENCIES

01-404-3111
No Agencies Please

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PERSONAL ASSISTANT

£15,000 + + +

Organised PA required to look after charming boss. Co-ordinate all aspects of his hectic business & social life. Good all round secretarial skills but most important are personal skills and motivation. No 9-5 man office. Salary £15,000 + + + according to experience.

01-730 8440
JAYBAR

DISTRAUGHT MD

Successful small marketing company in Oxford Street urgently seeks able and enthusiastic person to act as a sales and marketing assistant. Knowledge of sales and marketing essential. Must be a good person with a good attitude. Salary £10,000 + + + according to experience.

Write quickly to any firm, Maurice Willey, 145, Oxford Street, London W1R 1TB. (or fax 01 434 2793)

Personnel Prospects £13,000

Creating a new department is extremely hard work: its growth and development offer excellent career prospects and variety. A start-up situation has arisen in this leading Media Group assisting the newly-appointed Personnel Director. Together you will be responsible for setting up and implementing computerised systems, review and training programmes and new recruitment policies. Your sound secretarial skills (90/60), initiative and discretion are essential. Age 23-30. Call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

1992?

Outstanding opportunity for a politically-aware Secretary to gain an insight into how our client, a specialist consultancy, improves communications between Government, Parliament and the institutions of the European Community. Join a highly-motivated, elitist team who will depend on you to co-ordinate activities and plan their itineraries. Fluent French essential. Other European languages useful. If you are a self-starter with unflappable secretarial skills and organising flair, aged 20-28, call 01-493 5787 today.

LEGAL SECRETARY (MATRIMONIAL) SALARY £13,500

Senior Partner of prestigious W1 practice requires experienced secretary with excellent skills (audio/sh) to complement his existing secretarial support. You will have an unflappable confident nature and an ability to produce high quality work both speedily and accurately.

TELEPHONE 436 4571
(NO AGENCIES PLEASE)

P.R. SECRETARY

An opportunity to work with small, lively, team in consumer PR - clients are household names.

As well as being reliable, well-organised with lots of initiative, you will have excellent word processing skills (audio/sh) and a good knowledge of the PR industry. You will need to be confident in communicating with clients and suppliers but PR experience not essential.

Attractive non-smoking office near Fulham Road and Tube. Free parking. Salary: £9,500-11,000 a.a.e.

Ring Liz Gray, Career Wide Associates Ltd, 01-361 9488

£13,000 (SW1 Area)

PA/Secretary to Chief Executive of a major international company. A measure person, preferably with a degree, who is willing to manage a team of secretaries. The applicant must be able to handle a large volume of work and be able to handle a large volume of work and be able to handle a large volume of work.

Audio and V.P. essential. Shorthand not essential. Some knowledge of word processing would be an advantage. Salary £13,000 + + + according to experience.

For a full CV, please send your CV to: 01 328 1341 between 10.00 and 12.00 incl. w/ends.

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Call us now for more facts on our wide range of £8500 to £15000 jobs in the West End and City. Banking experience not essential. TATE APPOINTMENTS, 70-71 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W1Y 9DE.

Tate
01-408 0424

SECRETARY/PA

European Interactive Media is an exciting Philips/Polygram Venture set up to spearhead the development of software for the revolutionary new Compact Disc Interactive System in Europe. An extra special Secretary/PA is required for the President of this venture to be based initially in the West End (possibly moving to SW or W London).

In addition to providing a full secretarial service, the successful applicant will assist in the day-to-day administration involved in developing the organisation, providing a valuable key contact point for all parties involved.

Candidates should possess fast accurate secretarial skills, be a superb organiser, have WP/PC experience, excellent communication skills and of course, bags of initiative and common sense. Any European language (especially French/German) would be a major asset.

Benefits include Xmas bonus, UK, free product entitlement, 5 weeks holiday and the use of the company gym.

If you feel you fit the bill, please write enclosing an up-to-date CV and daytime telephone number to: Joy Hamlyn, Personnel Officer, PolyGram International Limited, 30 Berkeley Square, LONDON W1X 8HA (Fax: 01-493 2599) or call 01-493 8800 Ext.237.

PolyGram

Personnel/Admin Assistant

Sumptuous Investment Bank seeks an exceptional self-starter for a busy, high-profile role. Assisting the Administration Manager in the full recruitment process, you will be liaising with agencies; setting up and conducting interviews; maintaining Personnel files; administering the company benefits scheme; overseeing the reception staff and the catering functions; generally maintaining good working relationships with accounts, hoteliers etc. Experience of Personnel administration essential. Confidentiality and good people skills pre-requisite. Age 25-36. Call 01-493 5787.

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Recruitment Consultants

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A great social atmosphere & future awaits a young sec (19-25) with good typing for this stylish Paris HQ Merchant Bank.

Call Ann on 377 6777.

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PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE

Success has its rewards



NEAR CITY LOCAL
You can catch the tube at Wapping station, but you can also walk to the 'square mile' if you so desire - all of your life-style to be at Pelican Wharf.

Situated in Wapping, which is the heart of Wapping, the area is an area of gracious homes in an environment of restoration and conservation.

It is quite amazing how the new buildings, many no more than a year old, are blending in with those of the past. Careful choice of sympathetic exterior is partly responsible - but there is something else - almost an instant nostalgia which is both the past and the future.

Wapping - one of the more interesting parts of the new London.

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1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom apartments are currently available in the modern blocks on the Estate.

Flats with 24 hour portage • Parking Space to rent • 97 year leases • Access to private Square Gardens

Prices range from £140,000 to £450,000

PRUDENTIAL
40 Cornmarket Street Hyde Park London W2 2AB
Tel: 01-262 5000 Fax: 01-724 4432

SUPER SECRETARIES

AUDIO SEC TO PARTNER: £13,000++
A well presented and spoken partner level secretary is required to assist in the day to day running of a small business. The ideal candidate will be a former secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For details contact: **KOMPASS** 01-262 5000

SENIOR SEC IN SW1: £13,500
As secretary to the Co. secretary of this international real estate company you will have a wide range of responsibilities. The ideal candidate will be a former secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For details contact: **KOMPASS** 01-262 5000

SECRETARY IN OL, W1: £11,500
An experienced, confident and efficient secretary is required to assist in the day to day running of a small business. The ideal candidate will be a former secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For details contact: **KOMPASS** 01-262 5000

CALL LAUREN BARNES for more details
Tel: 246 1271 **KOMPASS** 176 Belsize Street, W1

RESEARCH IN PR: £11,000
This is a challenging position for a research assistant. The ideal candidate will be a former research assistant with a minimum of 5 years experience. The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For details contact: **KOMPASS** 01-262 5000

RESEARCH IN PR: £11,000
This is a challenging position for a research assistant. The ideal candidate will be a former research assistant with a minimum of 5 years experience. The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For details contact: **KOMPASS** 01-262 5000

RESEARCH IN PR: £11,000
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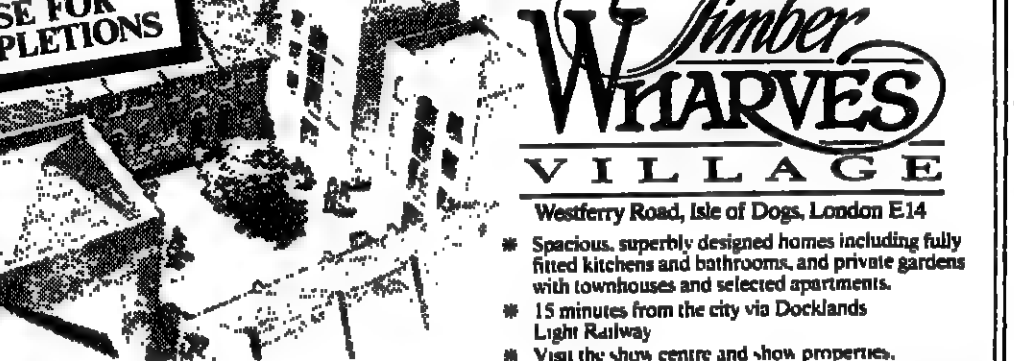
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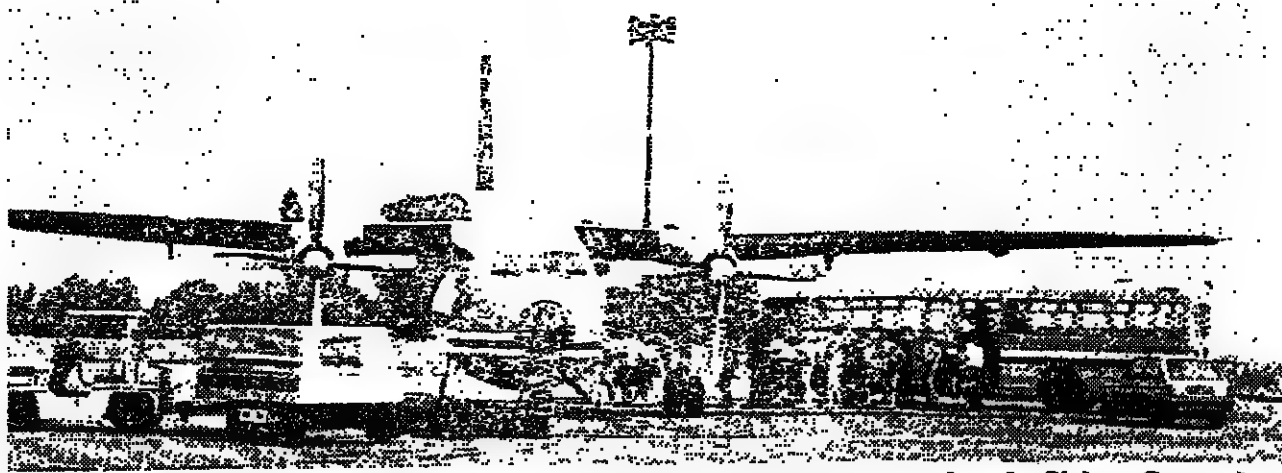
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Flying from the doorstep catches on

JAMES MORGAN



Humberside Airport's chief, Roy Minear: the airport routes 125,000 passengers a year to destinations such as Heathrow, Norwich, Aberdeen, Amsterdam and Jersey, and right, passengers board a flight at Stansted



With capacity demand on runways at Britain's premier two airports now greater than ever, regional airports are eyeing the prospect of further increasing their passenger numbers. And that goes for cargo and other commercial business also.

The ever-growing activity of both Heathrow and Gatwick is leading the British Airport Authority's airports group to speed-up plans for putting Stansted, now taking shape as London's third airport, to greater use in absorbing the number of aircraft requiring runway space. Passengers there have recently increased by 30 per cent to a total of 712,000 for the year.

Earlier this year saw the "topping out" of the new Stansted terminal building which, with new roads, car parks and other work will cost more than £300 million. It is due to open in 1991. This expenditure is vast when compared with the £4.4 million current expansion plans of Cardiff-Wales Airport. They include new check-in facilities, holding lounges and seating areas.

But with passenger numbers of almost 700,000 last year, an increase of 32 per cent on the previous 12 months, the Cardiff board is looking to the 1990s, by which time the airport expects to see the numbers passing through its gate to top one million.

Stansted, in twelfth place among UK airports in terms of passengers handled, has

recently overtaken Cardiff. But the Welsh airport is typical of those "regionals" planning and working to win a bigger share of the UK passenger market.

Clearly, services to London remain essential for those passengers whose business or destination is in the South-East, or who wish to connect in London with another service. But the regional airports seek to provide more alternative routes so that interlinking does not have to be via a London airport.

With 33 services, ranging from schedules to Amsterdam, by the Dutch carrier

and domestic routes, its long-haul services include New York, Chicago and Toronto, Hong Kong, Australia and Bahrain.

The airport is pressing hard for further US routes.

Birmingham International (BHX) last year handled 2.7 million passengers, and cargo carried was more than 26,000 tonnes. As the first step towards doubling its capacity by the year 2000, the airport's board has announced a three-year £35 million investment plan to extend both passenger and cargo facilities.

Blackpool's 8,516 aircraft movements over the past year

vices to Heathrow, and twice-daily links with Gatwick.

Brymon, along with London City Airways, has been responsible for the introduction of Paris and other services from the new London City Airport in London's East End docks.

From a cluster of wooden huts when it opened up at Woolsington in 1935, Newcastle is now a flourishing international airport. Since becoming a plc last year, with share capital held by seven local authorities, straddling Tyne and Wear, some 1.4 million passengers have used the terminal, an increase of 7 per cent on the previous record year. One of the airport's targets is for British Airways' Heathrow service to achieve full shuttle status, on a basis of one flying, one waiting, by the end of the year.

Humberside Airport routes 125,000 passengers a year to destinations like Heathrow, Norwich, Aberdeen, Amsterdam and Jersey. They include more than 30 per cent of the business air passengers generated in the region, says the managing director, Roy Minear.

Earlier this year the Princess of Wales opened a £600,000 terminal extension at the airport. But limited runway length at Humberside restricts the airport's ability to cater totally for the extensive and fast-growing local leisure traffic which might number as many as half a million passenger movements annually.

Approval has been sought for a runway extension. Although Plymouth Airport came into being in 1931 it was not until the setting up of Brymon Airways that the airport was really put on the aviation map in the late 1970s. Now Plymouth City airport has four daily Brymon ser-

Stansted is in line as London's third airport but the 'regionals' aim for more routes

Netherlines, Dublin by Ryanair and Jersey by Dan Air. Cardiff is looking for still more routes.

The busiest service for Teeside Airport, with a total of almost 300,000 passengers last year, is British Midland's Heathrow schedule. And businessmen in particular are big users of the Amsterdam service by both Air UK F27s and Dan Air BAe146s.

Manchester International, accounting for one in 10 of the UK's annual 90 million air passengers, is a growing success story. With close to 150 intercontinental, international

were barely a twelfth compared with those of Manchester, and mostly with 36-seater Shorts 360 turboprops rather than big jets.

But they carried 127,000 passengers on routes like those of Jersey European Airways, Manx Airlines and Loganair services to the Isle of Man, Jersey, Dublin, Belfast and Londonderry.

Although Plymouth Airport came into being in 1931 it was not until the setting up of Brymon Airways that the airport was really put on the aviation map in the late 1970s.

Now Plymouth City airport has four daily Brymon ser-

Small fry nibble the lions' share of passengers

Britain's regional airports are responding to their second year as PLCs with no less enthusiasm than the BAA airports group - successor to the British Airports Authority - even though the BAA's quest for new business has been relentless since privatization.

Not surprisingly, BAA, with seven airports and almost 64 million of the 90 million passengers who use Britain's airports annually as customers, plans to keep its hold on the lion's share.

The new regional experience however, is that business people, holidaymakers and other travellers living in many areas throughout the country are more than ever ready to shop around for an alternative route, and ways to avoid being caught up in airport congestion.

The trend among passengers is to opt for direct flights from their regional airport, and to consider an alternative to London for interlining to another flight.

No longer is London the near-automatic choice it once was for interlining. Millions are finding they can fly directly to their destinations in Britain, Europe, and to North

America by taking alternative routes.

Interlining to international flights from offshore airports such as Amsterdam and Paris, is now highly fashionable. Two thirds of all those passengers who fly in Britain, however, are likely to pass through one of the London area airports, particularly Heathrow and Gatwick, for some considerable time to come, say the experts.

Forty out of every hundred air passengers in Britain last year used Heathrow.

Apart from about 25 top regional terminals, there are as many airports again handling domestic and some offshore schedules. The regional pace-setters are Manchester, a leading international gateway airport; the BAA's Glasgow Airport, and Birmingham which is seeking designation as a full UK Gateway. With

them and Heathrow and Gatwick in the top 10 - based on passenger numbers - are Luton, Belfast, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Newcastle.

Each airport's share of the action varies greatly. Heathrow's 34.7 million passenger total for last year was followed by Gatwick with 19.4 million. Then came Manchester with 8.6 million, and fourth, Glasgow with 3,365,000, compared with Newcastle in tenth place with 1,335,000.

Between them they accounted for over 78 million passengers, with the other 40 or so UK airports pressing to improve their own placings with eight million passengers between them.

BAA's airports - at Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestwick and Aberdeen - increased their overall passenger total

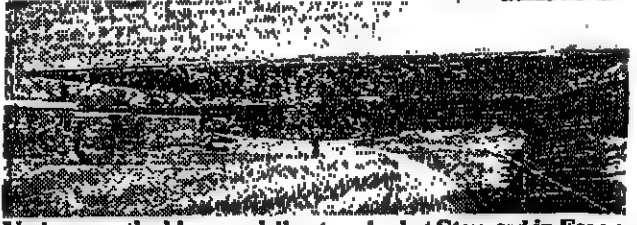
last year by 15 per cent to 63.7 million.

East Midlands which last year handled 1,287,000 passengers easily kept 11th place, increasing its percentage share of passengers at all UK airports (up from 1.49 in 1982 to 1.50 last year). Other airports increasing their percentage share over the same spell were Manchester, Birmingham, Luton, Stansted, Cardiff, Bristol, Leeds/Bradford, Southampton, Isle of Man and, most of all, Gatwick - now the world's second-busiest international airport, after Heathrow.

Bristol, boosted by both new holiday charters and scheduled services, has pushed annual passenger totals to over 654,000.

Leeds/Bradford's total of 625,000 passengers last year gave the Yorkshire airport 15th position in the overall airport placings. Southampton handled 434,500, Liverpool 332,500; Belfast Harbour jumped into 21st position after just four years of commercial passenger services, with 180,000.

Gatwick's 19.4 million passengers last year gave it 22.5 per cent of all UK passengers, compared with its 18.98 per cent share five years earlier.



Under way: the big new airline terminal at Stansted in Essex

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The CAA is an independent public body, largely funded by the air traveller through charges to the aviation industry. The Authority's job is to ensure the highest standards of safety that human ingenuity and technological developments can practically achieve. This involves all areas of UK civil aviation from the licensing of pilots and airworthiness certification to the provision of air traffic control.

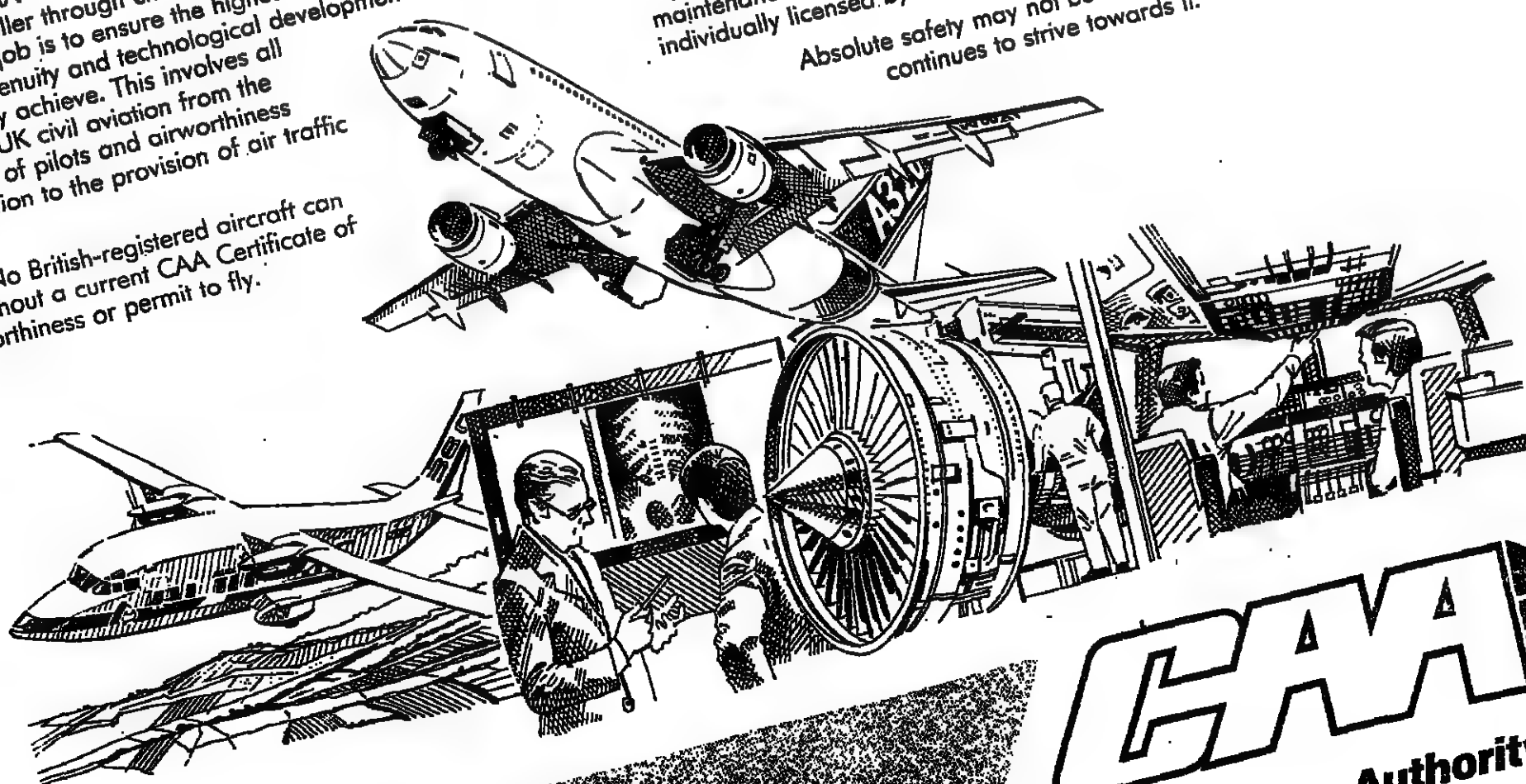
No British-registered aircraft can fly without a current CAA Certificate of Airworthiness or permit to fly.

Aircraft maintenance is monitored by a team of 80 CAA surveyors, working from 12 regional offices, to ensure that safety standards are observed.

The Authority is heavily involved with the development of civil aviation in the regions. It licenses 32 major regional airports from which British airlines are licensed to fly on over 300 international air routes. It also provides air traffic control at 24 airports, as well as all en route air traffic control services.

Before any British airline can carry fare-paying passengers, it must have a CAA Air Operators Certificate, and all British airlines are monitored by the CAA's team of Flight Operations Inspectors. To perform their vital roles, pilots, maintenance engineers and air traffic controllers must be individually licensed by the Authority.

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Flight sights: Familiar logos of some of the main operators using the UK's regional airports: British Airways, left, Air UK, Dan-Air and British Midland

Who gets what as the routes change around

A larger shake-up in air services has resulted from the merger of British Caledonian with British Airways than was foreseen at the time of the BCal buy-out — not least on UK regional trunk routes.

For the first time several premier scheduled routes to the provinces have come on to the market with airlines known for their regional-type and entrepreneurial operations jettisoning in for some of the business.

Both Air UK and Dan Air have won licences to operate former BCal routes surrendered by British Airways. But the surrender, part of BA's argument with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission at the time of the BCal takeover, is viewed by some to be more of a capitulation.

The old BCal routes were among several European and domestic services for which BA handed in the licences, making it clear to the Civil Aviation Authority that it would compete for them again with other UK airlines, when the licences were reallocated.

But when the CAA told BA that it would have to quit the prestigious Gatwick-Brussels route, leaving Harry Goodman's Air Europe to operate a new scheduled service without



The chief executive of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall, left, and Stephen Hanscombe, managing director of Air UK.



was seen as an opportunity. From next month Air UK takes over the Gatwick-Glasgow and Gatwick-Edinburgh routes from BA and Dan Air takes up the Gatwick-Manchester and Aberdeen-Manchester services.

A Gatwick-Manchester licence has been granted to BA for international passengers switching airlines only. Air UK, with British Aerospace BAe146s, will compete on its new Scottish trunk routes against British Midland, both operating from Heathrow.

Two BAe146-300 110-seaters are being added to the airline's existing fleet of three earlier-type BAe146s.

Stephen Hanscombe, managing director of Air UK, expects to fly 330,000 passengers on his new twin-trunk routes in the first year, a big increase over the number for BCal passengers last year. In three years with expected figures up to 400,000, the airline will be ready to introduce 140-seater Boeing 737-400s.

But British Airways and British Midland, which last year shared more than a million passengers on each of the London-Glasgow/Edinburgh, and Belfast trunk routes on which they compete, also have a few ideas for increasing their passengers.

Air UK's new trunk routes, says Mr Hanscombe, "will provide us with a solid foundation on which to further develop our domestic and near-European network." It means about 70 jobs being created in Scotland, where Air UK already has the largest network of any British carrier.

Forty new cabin staff are being employed to help operate four daily round trips from both Scottish cities. Dan Air, which operates a fleet of 54, mostly jet aircraft, on 40 scheduled and charter services to 10 countries, plans to operate BAC 1-11 jets on its new Gatwick-Aberdeen service.

A strengthening UK economy is helping business at provincial airports

Plus of off-beat flight paths

Britain's domestic air services and also passenger travel from UK provincial airports to Europe, "are all going through a period of exceptional growth".

Their success means that the UK's regional air services are "Cinderella no more." The main reason for the growth, says Michael Bishop, head of Airlines of Britain, is the strength of the British economy. "It is sending more people out to do business, not just from London, but from other parts of the country too," adds Mr Bishop, whose airline group owns British Midland Airways, Manx Airlines, Loganair and London City Airways.

"It also means that more people from Europe, particularly, are coming into the regions, rather than just to London," he says. After the merger of British Airways and British Caledonian, AOB is now the second largest airline group in the UK, with the second largest scheduled airline system.

The "regional boom" helped to increase its passenger numbers carried on both scheduled and charter services last year by 22 per cent over the previous 12 months to 2.84 million.

"For many years the regional air services have been a bit of a Cinderella of the industry," says Mr Bishop. "What has actually happened is that because of the dis-



A maximum of 18 passengers per journey use this Jetstream 31 flown daily by Netherlines between Southampton/Eastleigh and Amsterdam. This small army of people is needed, some of them behind the scenes, to run the Hampshire airport

proportionately strong growth of the British economy over the past few years, the UK air services are Cinderella no more."

The Airlines of Britain chairman and BMA took the UK trunk market by storm just six years ago by presenting passengers on the airline's then new Heathrow services to Glasgow and Edinburgh with refreshments, including a hot first meal of the day, which quickly became dubbed the "BMA bacon and bangers breakfast". British Airways, a competitor on the same routes, followed the idea.

Britain's regional air services have now become the fastest-growing parts of the air transport industry, says Mr Bishop. Many people have now taken to by-passing London because of conges-

tion. But Mr Bishop, the realist, sees the South-East continuing in its major role of handling Britain's air travel masses.

"Whatever may be happening to the economy, and whatever may be happening in the regions, the hard fact remains, whether we like it or not, that 60 per cent of all travellers — people who travel to and from England — still want to travel to the London area. You can't adjust that by directing traffic to other airports."

"What is happening is that because of the strength and the breadth of the improvement in the UK economy, the regions are now sharing the spoils which London and the South-East has always enjoyed."



Bishop: More people coming to the regions

Dutch campaign goes a treat

The campaign by Amsterdam's airport bosses to sell Schiphol as London's Third Airport brought some wry smiles and headshakes on this side of the North Sea.

Then the cheeky Dutch tactic in promoting their airport as an alternative UK terminal changed as Stansted in Essex was finally chosen to become Airport Three.

But 10 years after streamer ads along the sides of London's red buses proclaimed the Dutch capital's airport as "LAP3", the UK-mounted Schiphol campaign has paid off just the same. For in the view of millions of passengers it has assumed the role of an offshore UK terminal; a London area airport almost, in all but name.

Schiphol's success in attracting more than 650,000 passengers originating at UK regional airports over the past year,

is because a large number of them prefer to avoid Heathrow and other south-east airports and their congestion problems.

Instead they opt to "go Dutch" when interlining for international flights. Of the total of almost 2.4 million passengers who travelled between all UK airports and Amsterdam last year, one in five transferred to another flight at Schiphol.

There are now 260 round-trip services a week between Amsterdam and 23 British airports — including the London area's five, Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London City.

Seven British and four Dutch airlines also operate between Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff; Edinburgh, East Midlands, Glasgow, Humberside and Leeds/Bradford; Manchester, Teesside, Newcastle, Norwich, Southampton and Cambridge, and Jer-

sey and Guernsey. Entries for UK flights from Schiphol are spread over six pages of the *Worldwide Pocket Flight Guide*.

The British carriers are Air UK, Dan Air, British Midland Airways, Birmingham Executive Airways, Stoking Airways, British Airways, and London City Airways. And the Dutch carriers: KLM, NLM, Netherlands and Transavia.

Air UK, which has schedules to Amsterdam from 10 British regional airports as well as Stansted, has adapted to the direct-route preference of many regular customers. "Starting a business trip to Amsterdam with a trip to London, isn't very businesslike," the airline has been telling passengers.

Clearly those who "go Dutch" from Britain's regional airports with both Air UK and so many other airlines, tend to agree.

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including large and small screen TV and video plus slide projectors and overhead projectors.

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movements, delays and resources will increase operational efficiency and assist with long-term planning.

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Sirocco	22	22
Hastings-Bass	5	85
Mack Prosscott	7	68
Nails	6	13.2
Morley	10	13.2

(Not including yesterday's results)

BETTING:	5-2 Yauk, 3-1 Wernsham, 4-1 Molenich, 8-1 Ahsah, 6-1 Rechargeable, 10-1 Shappan, 12-1 Zorkos, 14-1 Vols Tout, Master Plan, 15-1 others.
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Stroon	5	23	22	W	11	63
Hessling-Bass	5	23	21.9	W Ryan	11	65
Mark Proscott	7	26	21.4	M Roberts	13	15.3
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(Not including yesterday's results)

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BETTING: 5-2 Vault, 3-1 Wernshun, 4-1 Milevich, 6-1 Ahsal, 6-1 Rechargeable, 10-1 Shapagan, 12-1 Zorick, 14-1 Viola Trout, Master Plan, 15-1 others.
1987: NICKLE PLATED 9-0 G Sexton (5-1) G Wings 19 mm

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THE TIMES OLYMPICS GUIDE

Continuing a sport-by-sport preview of the Games, which start on Saturday

Qualifiers are making their presence felt

By Roddy Mackenzie



Signs that Western Europe is closing the gap on the rest of the world in volleyball is clearly indicated by the fact that Italy, Sweden, France and The Netherlands have all won places in the men's tournament.

Italy are the only Western European nation to have won an Olympic medal — a bronze in Los Angeles — but one of those four qualifiers could repeat that success in Seoul. Sweden have beaten Italy and the United States, the reigning Olympic and world champions, in recent months, while The Netherlands are coached by Arrie Schinger, who guided the US women to the silver medal in 1984.

Jan Hedengard, of Sweden, is regarded as one of the top four setters in the world and much will depend upon how the respective setters perform in Seoul. The Soviet Union have lost the services of the legendary Zaitsev (who trained the Italian setters for Seoul) and Valeriy Losev has the unenviable task of filling his shoes. Brazil, silver medal winners in Los Angeles, and

Bulgaria, third in the world championships, are in the same opening group as the Soviets.

The US have the nucleus of the team that won gold in Los Angeles (Kiral, Timmons, Buck and Saunders all remain), but Buck has recently had a knee operation and how places in the men's tournament.

The American blocking is regarded as the best in the world, and Jeff Stork, the new left-handed setter, should give them more options in attack. The US coach, Marv Dunphy, retires after the Games.

With the Cuban boycott, China will start as favourites in the women's event but they have a tough opening pool which includes the US, silver medal winners in Los Angeles, and Peru. China meet the US in their first match — a repeat of the 1984 Olympic final. South Korea will be the dark horses.

PROGRAMME
Men: September 17-26: group matches; September 28-30: quarter-finals; October 1: play-offs; October 2: final and play-offs. Women: September 20-25: group matches; September 27: semi-finals; September 28: final and play-offs.

Loban could pin down a medal

By Andrew Longmore



Wrestling is one of the oldest sports in the Olympics. There are two codes: the Greco-Roman, which has been an Olympic event since 1896, and the freestyle, first included eight years later. Neither, it must be said, has much in common with Big Daddy and the grunting and grunting of the local town hall.

The main differences between the two codes are that in Greco-Roman the use of the legs and holds below the waist are prohibited. Otherwise techniques are much the same. Points are scored over two three-minute rounds by successful throws and for gaining positions of advantage. A fall is achieved only by pinning down the shoulders of your opponent for two seconds.

The British team's final preparations were overshadowed by the tragic death of team member Stephen Cooper, but in Noel Loban, who in Los Angeles won only the second of Britain's post-war wrestling medals, the team has a realistic chance of gaining another medal.

Though he was born in Britain, Loban lived in the United States for much of his

youth and would have gone to the 1980 Olympics with the US team but for the boycott. Loban will compete in the light-heavyweight division of the freestyle and will be hoping

to better his bronze in a sport dominated in both codes by the Soviet Union. The Bulgarians, who won two golds in Los Angeles, will also be looking to continue their medal-winning form.

PROGRAMME
Finals: Greco-Roman: September 20-22; Freestyle: September 29-Oct 1.

BRITISH TEAM
Noel Loban (100 kilograms), Graham Gifford (90 kilograms), Doyle (85kg), Fitchell (70kg), Ravinder Singh (70kg), David Ogden (87kg), Paul Morris (80kg).

TOMORROW: yachting

Reference guide launched

From David Miller

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its Medical Commission are to be congratulated on the publication of this week in three languages of an encyclopaedia of information on sports medicine. This is a discipline which is vastly more developed in countries such as Sweden or the United States and Eastern Europe than it is in Britain.

About 50 senior international specialists have given their knowledge and their time free of charge to the compilation that will be invaluable both to athletes and their coaches in the intensive world of physical training and competition.

Blackwell Scientific Publications has produced this 700-page volume with 234 illustrations, priced at £39.50 which, at a glance, is clearly a bargain for those who dedicate

themselves, and their bodies, to sport.

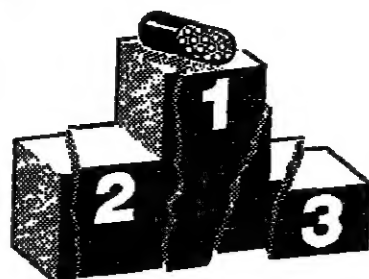
The various chapters embrace the impact of training on biological systems; an assessment of functional capacities; and environmental conditions; the process and implementation of physical training; the training of children and adolescents; women and of older persons; the prevention and management of injuries and over-use; the prevention of internal disease; medical care of teams; and drug control.

There are to be at least five subsequent volumes, covering specialist areas in more depth. Professor Arnold Beckett, one of two British contributors who is in Seoul as part of the drug testing control team, said at yesterday's launch of the book: "It is unfortunate that there are few university chairs in Britain

Seoul

The International Olympic Committee is to test competitors at the Games for traces of marijuana after a request from several countries who suspect their team members may have been smoking the illegal drug. It will be the first time that competitors will have been tested for the popular social drug in any sports event in history, although IOC officials stressed yesterday that no action would be taken if there were a positive result.

Prince Alexandre de Merode, of Belgium, the president of the IOC's medical commission said yesterday: "We have decided to do some limited testing. Marijuana does not affect sporting performance. The problem is a general one and we will



look to see what will happen when we test for the drug. We will not specify which countries are involved."

Marijuana is illegal in South Korea and during the 1970s people were imprisoned for possessing it, but in recent years the interpretation of the law has become more lenient. A fine is now customary as is the

case in the United Kingdom. Two years ago *The Times* disclosed that tests for cocaine were to be carried out on men at Wimbledon although no action would be taken on guilty players. Instead, psychiatric help would be offered.

Olympic officials declined to say exactly how many or which of the 161 competing countries had made the request but a spokeswoman for the British team management said it had not asked for testing.

Dr Robert Dugal, of Canada, a member of the IOC medical commission said: "This is strictly experimental. The results will be confidential. There is no objective to ban it in future. The only person who will know the identity of any possible result will be Prince de

Merode and he will share the evidence after the games."

Dugal added that it would be possible to identify a non-habitual smoker about a week after he last took the drug. But the habitual smoker, someone who had a "joint" three or four times a week, could be identified several weeks after he last took the drug.

Professor Arnold Beckett, of King's College, London, and another leading member of the IOC medical commission said: "If we started looking at the social aspect of drug taking then we would not be doing our job. But we do have a problem. I think the numbers should be down to both the individual countries involved and the respective federations."

Up to 1,600 urine specimens will be analysed during the Games at a £3 million testing centre.

British horsewomen were baffled by a request from Olympic officials to take a sex test, and demanded that their male team-mates should do the same.

"It's a sport where we compete on equal terms so what was the point," said Virginia Leng, whose team-mate, Jeanne Lorison-Clarke, complained that to take a test would have been sexual discrimination, but it transpired that the curious request was the result of an error in translation and no tests were required after all.

John Goodbody

Leng puts the team's priority in right light

From John Goodbody

Seoul

The Olympic Games are primarily a celebration of individual excellence. Virginia Leng, MBE, the world and European champion and Olympic bronze medal winner, curiously disagrees.

"The team title is more important. That is the way it always has been and, hopefully, that is the way it will always stay. But this does not mean to say we would all not love to win an individual medal."

She speaks quite contentedly about the "sacrifice" she may have to make to ensure that Britain's extraordinary record in the sport is maintained. In the last four Games in which a three-day event team has competed, Britain has won two golds and a silver.

"The individual event depends a great deal on where you are positioned in the team order. You may be asked by the manager to go carefully and slowly or you may need to go for it to get inside the time."

The second of the three disciplines is so hazardous that there can only be some measure of confidence if a rider is well placed for the show jumping section.

Leng, who will ride Master Craftsman here as the replacement for Priceless and Night Cap, who both brought her much success in the past, is concerned to give the horse, on which she was third, at least a minimum of this year's variety in the last days before the competition.

"It is important to give it variation and fun rather than the grind of going round in circles. One can overdo the dressage."

Leng, who will observe her usual superstitions of not wearing green for the cross-country event and putting on her "old faithfuls", a pair of boots with a link in the left foot, will know where her three colleagues will be on Saturday evening.

They may, of course, include Mark Phillips, who could not witness the investiture of his wife, the Princess Royal, as a member of the International Olympic Committee here on Monday because the British team had a practice.

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Cannabis testing will be strictly experimental but sex tests lose something in translation

No disqualifications for marijuana use

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From David Miller

Seoul

Delhi, the over-populous yet floral jewel of the sub-continent, deserves, in the confused world of sporting politics, to be awarded the XVth Commonwealth Games of 1994 here tomorrow. It probably will not be. The indications are that, faced with the same kind of moral issue over the Winter Games in the same year on which the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will vote an hour later, the Commonwealth Games Federation's 62 members will lack the necessary foresight and courage.

The Games, the most demonstrable collective public event of the Commonwealth, need every grain of cohesion and encouragement available if they are to survive; following the debacle of debt and boycott in Edinburgh in 1986, Auckland hopes to restore some stability in 1990. India could be a rare, valuable non-white venue four years later.

"It would be a great advantage were Delhi successfully to stage the first Asian Commonwealth Games," David Dixon, the federation's secretary, said yesterday. "Though there are three excellent bids, Delhi's opponents are Cardiff and Victoria, British Columbia."

Cardiff, host in 1958, is undeniably the poor relation in terms of facility. Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, arrives on the day of the vote, his hands tied without a Treasury penny to assist Cardiff's spirited attempt to compete with rivals backed by government money.

If the Federation members were to support the "small countries" — the hope that Myrddin John, Cardiff's secretary, fosters — Cardiff might win. The expectation, however, is that they will go out on the first vote because of doubts about Britain, political and financial, given sustenance in Edinburgh, then by Zola Budd again last spring, and by English cricket almost every week.

With India's rejection of the England tour party, Abraham Ordia, the voice of African unity, fired his predictable

broadsides at Cardiff two days ago. The fact that the latest anti-apartheid controversy is over almost as soon as it began, is little consolation to Cardiff. Moreover, a modest budget, a lack of publicity, and a Games village, a modest but not a strong one, are the federation's secretary, said yesterday. "Though there are three excellent bids, Delhi's opponents are Cardiff and Victoria, British Columbia."

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FOOTBALL: SCOTLAND COACH HOPES TO BUILD ON RECENT SUCCESSES AS THE QUALIFYING CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY

Roxburgh happy to keep World Cup opponents guessing

From Roddy Forsyth, Oslo

Ingemar Stadheim, the Norwegian manager, complained yesterday that although he had spent several evenings trying to work out the Scotland team most likely to face Norway here tonight, he was no nearer a solution than when he began. There have been times in the past few days when Andy Roxburgh has suffered as much uncertainty about his selection for this opening fixture in group seven of the World Cup qualifying competition.

By lunchtime yesterday, however, the Scotland coach was able to declare that he had settled on his line-up, although he declined to reveal his final choice. Nevertheless, clues were on offer as Roxburgh outlined his approach to a game which is likely to be critical to the Scots' chances of qualifying for the World Cup finals for the fifth time in succession.

"We aim to build on four good results which we achieved last season," he said. "We showed excellent attacking skills against Belgium and Hungary when we beat them at Hampden Park and we were defensively strong when we beat Bulgaria in Sofia and drew with Spain in Madrid."

"What is required for this match is a combination of our talents in those fixtures and so we will choose from 12 players who contributed to those results and I will seriously consider one other player who was not involved."

It seems reasonable to conjecture that, aside from

Leighton in goal, Roxburgh will settle for a back four with the Aberdeen pair, Miller and McLeish, in central defence and Malpas, of Dundee United, and Nicol, of Liverpool, in the full-back positions. Aitken, of Celtic, who captains Scotland again, will play in front of the back line and his club colleague, McStay, will take his midfield place with Durrant, of Rangers, providing Durrant shows no symptoms of his recent leg injury.

It is in left midfield that Scotland have had problems for the past two years. The sturdy McLeod, of Borussia Dortmund, is a possibility but Kevin Gallacher has shown dazzling form with Dundee United and because Roxburgh believes that Scotland will have to counter-attack at speed, the player from Tannadice must be the favourite, leaving Aitken as the lone ball-winner in midfield.

In such circumstances, the partnership of Johnston, of Nantes, and Sharp, of Everton, would stand to benefit from Gallacher's ability to get behind a defence and deliver crosses.

Whatever players make up the Scottish XI they will have been thoroughly briefed. Yesterday the Scots watched two films which illustrated Norway's strength. They were impressed by the Norwegian's ability at set-pieces and their desire to win the ball back quickly.

This morning the Scottish

players will be treated to a display of their opponents' weaknesses, including a tendency to be casual at the back, a flaw which will suit the predatory instincts of Gallacher. Roxburgh has emphasized to his players the importance of leaving Oslo with at least one point.

"I have told them that this game is not to be treated like a European club tie where you can lose away from home and make up the ground in the return leg. We want to take three points out of four from each of Norway, France and Yugoslavia and if we do that we will qualify."

"Some people think that France and Yugoslavia will come here and walk away with victories but I believe that Norway will take points off somebody so if we get a win we will have achieved a very good start indeed."

The cool rainy conditions of Oslo will suit the Scots and the pitch at the Ullevaal Stadium is soft, almost soggy. Roxburgh observed: "That's what our players prefer. They like to slide around when they tackle so they have something going for them already."

Bremner back

The Brighton forward, Kevin Bremner, will make a comeback in a specially arranged match at Littlehampton today, having been sidelined for several weeks with a fractured cheekbone. Bremner, injured in a pre-season tournament in Portugal, may play in the second division at Manchester City on Saturday.



Glover: taken to hospital with damaged knee ligaments from a tackle in the fourth minute

Knill tries to bridge gap in class against the Dutch

From Ian Ross, Amsterdam

A novice defender, who, by his manager's own admission, is not ready for international football, will attempt what amounts to a quantum leap in class here tonight as Wales open the World Cup qualifying programme.

Alan Knill, the previously uncapped Swansea City centre back who was rejected by Southampton as an apprentice, will face the European champions, The Netherlands, in the Olympic stadium where he will be expected to stifle the precocious talent of Marco van Basten.

Terry Yorath, the manager of Wales, has paired Knill, aged 23, with Chelsea's midfielder, Peter Nicholas, at the heart of the defence which has a makeshift appearance in the absence of the

injured Everton pair, Ratcliffe and Van den Hauwe.

The night's other imposing task of marking Rudi Gullits, has been handed to Horne, of Portsmouth, who has been instructed to shadow the gifted extrovert from the moment he leaves the sanctuary of his dressing room until the final whistle.

Having overlooked the experienced Jacket, of Watford, Yorath is gambling on the natural enthusiasm of youth but he remains adamant that The Netherlands' reputation has been artificially inflated since their summer triumph in West Germany.

"We are not in awe of the Dutch. The European championship did not throw up a great side. We will not have a defensive attitude. How can we with players like Rush and

Hughes in the line-up," he said.

"To be brutally honest, Knill is not ready for international football but this situation has been forced upon us. In 18 months' time he will probably be playing in the first division if he continues to make progress," he added.

Knill, born in Slough of Welsh parents, accepted his swift elevation gracefully and was wily enough to suggest that his task may not prove to be quite as difficult as it would appear on paper.

"Van Basten may not be as good as the English centre backs made him look in the European finals. The manager obviously thinks that I am capable of coping and I am happy about that. The biggest games I have played up to date were against Rotherham United and Torquay United in last season's third and fourth division play offs," he said.

Knill insisted that he would lose no sleep as a result of his selection. Van Basten was unavailable for comment but one can only assume that he too will enjoy a restful night.

Wales: 1. Southall (Everton); 2. Hall (Sheff); 3. Blackmore (Manchester United); 4. Williams (Derby County); 5. Kari (Swansea City); 6. P. Jones (Cardiff); 7. Davies (Swansea City); 8. Aldred (Leeds United); 9. Ihuah (Liverpool); 10. Hughes (Wolves); 11. Williams (Cardiff); 12. Jones (Cardiff); 13. Jones (Cardiff); 14. Jones (Cardiff); 15. Jones (Cardiff); 16. Jones (Cardiff); 17. Jones (Cardiff); 18. Jones (Cardiff); 19. Jones (Cardiff); 20. Jones (Cardiff); 21. Jones (Cardiff); 22. Jones (Cardiff); 23. Jones (Cardiff); 24. Jones (Cardiff); 25. Jones (Cardiff); 26. Jones (Cardiff); 27. Jones (Cardiff); 28. Jones (Cardiff); 29. Jones (Cardiff); 30. Jones (Cardiff); 31. Jones (Cardiff); 32. Jones (Cardiff); 33. Jones (Cardiff); 34. Jones (Cardiff); 35. Jones (Cardiff); 36. Jones (Cardiff); 37. Jones (Cardiff); 38. Jones (Cardiff); 39. Jones (Cardiff); 40. Jones (Cardiff); 41. Jones (Cardiff); 42. Jones (Cardiff); 43. Jones (Cardiff); 44. Jones (Cardiff); 45. Jones (Cardiff); 46. 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